Friday, September 26, 2025 No 267 ₹7

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DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

CM announces Bhyrappa memorial in Mysuru

Says writer's demise leaves Kannada world poorer

Page 7A

Sarkozy sentenced to 5 years in prison

Page 12

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ICC to Surya: Refrain from making political statements

Hearing on Pakistan players Farhan, Rauf today
Page 16

GST reforms will continue: PM

Says tax rates may come down further
Page 13

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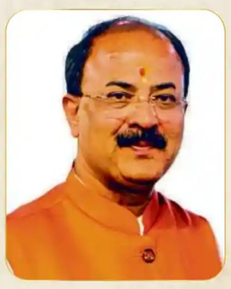

Shri. Aravind Limbavali
Former Minister & Popular Leader of the Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency

Smt. Manjula Aravind Limbavali
MLA, Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency

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The Power of Good

Afridi, Rauf set up India vs Pak Asia Cup Final

Page 16

Trump won't allow Israel to annex West Bank: Officials

Page 12

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4 BHK	2655 - 2773 SFT.	~~₹1.88CR - ₹1.96CR~~	₹1.81CR - ₹1.88CR
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Bengaluru Friday, September 26, 2025 Pages 28 Vol 78 No 267 ₹7

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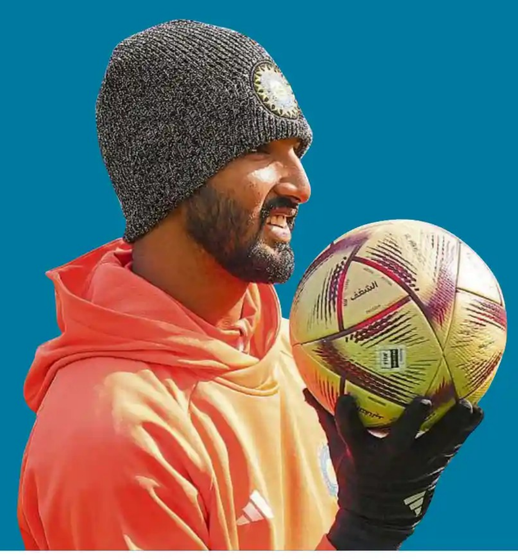


Padikkal returns for Windies Tests

Jadeja named vice-captain; Karun Nair left out

Page 15

Nation

Agni-Prime missile tested from rail-based launcher P.10

State

K'taka okays Rs 4.4k-cr skill development policy P.7A

Nation

EC reverses postal ballot counting order P.7B

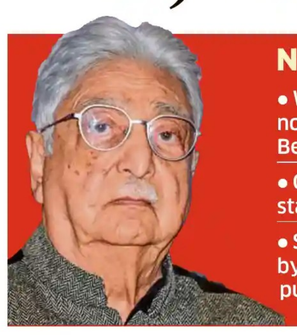
Business

Startups grapple with drop in funding P.13

Can't open campus to traffic, says Premji

Declines CM's proposal; suggests study to ease ORR congestion

BENGALURU, DHNS



No thoroughfare

- Wipro chief says there's no silver bullet solution for Bengaluru's traffic
- Cites legal, governance and statutory challenges
- Says it is pvt property owned by listed firm, not intended for public thoroughfare

Wipro founder-chairman Azim Premji has declined Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's request for allowing traffic through the company's Sarjapur Road campus, stressing that there is "no single-point solution or silver bullet" to Bengaluru's notorious congestion.

He instead proposed a scientific study to explore a solution to the 'complex' traffic problem.

In his letter dated September 19, Siddaramaiah had suggested exploring the possibility of allowing limited vehicular movement through the Wipro campus to ease the severe traffic congestion along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) at Iblur junction during peak hours.

The rare outreach came at a time when frustration among global IT firms and startups is rising over the city's crumbling infrastructure, and some companies announcing plans to move out.

The letter was widely shared on social media, building public pressure on the company. Vehicle users demanded that opening the private campus would reduce the traffic congestion on Sarjapur Road, ORR and Iblur Junction.

In his response dated September 24, Premji pointed out significant "legal, governance and statutory challenges" in allowing the traffic.

He reminded the government that it is an exclusive private property owned by a listed company and not intended for public thoroughfare.

Premji acknowledged the chief minister's appeal and appreciated the government's efforts to tackle Bengaluru's growing congestion. But he stressed the urgent need for effective measures, particularly along the ORR, making it clear that opening Wipro's campus was not a viable option.

"Sarjapur campus is a special economic zone (SEZ) providing services to global customers. Our contractual conditions mandate stringent, non-negotiable access control norms for governance and compliance. Moreover, public vehicle movement through a private property would not be effective as a sustainable and long-term solution," he said.

Proposing a scientific and comprehensive study led by experts in urban transport management to chart out a holistic roadmap, Premji pointed out that the problem of congestion along the ORR is complex and stems from multiple factors. Wipro, he assured, is willing to underwrite a significant portion of the cost for such an exercise and be part of the solution.

In a separate news release, Wipro said the most effective path forward was to commission a comprehensive, scientific study. "Such an exercise would allow us to develop a holistic roadmap of effective solutions that are implementable in the short, medium, and long term," it added.

GBA's rush to fill potholes sparks quality concerns, Page 4

DKS: Rs 750 cr to fix potholes

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday said the state government had provided Rs 750 crore for filling up potholes in Bengaluru. He also took on the opposition BJP, saying the saffron party did not even build a small pillar or flyover to ease Bengaluru's traffic congestion when it was in power. "We are committed to fixing the pothole issue in Bengaluru. The CM has released a grant of Rs 750 crore for this purpose," he told said.

Details on Page 4

Now, OC relief likely for properties above 1,200 sq ft

Cabinet seeks A-G's opinion; exemption only if building plan is approved

BENGALURU, DHNS

Legal opinion

- Cabinet seeks Advocate-General's opinion on giving exemption from OCs
- A-G opines that exemption possible for a category of buildings if there is proper justification
- Says exemption will kick in from May 15, 2025, when GBG Act came into force

The Cabinet on Thursday discussed exempting all residential properties exceeding 1,200 sq ft from obtaining occupancy certificates (OC) in the Greater Bengaluru Area, which could make life easy for citizens, but leave noncompliance with building plans unchecked.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has already exempted residential buildings constructed on plots up to 1,200 sq ft from obtaining OC. The government wants to extend this to larger plots.

The exemption is for constructions whose building plans are approved.

Accordingly, the Cabinet has obtained Advocate-General Shashi Kiran Shetty's opinion on this, multiple sources said.

The urban development department had asked Shetty on what the law says on exempting plots exceeding 1,200 sq ft from OC, and if a cut-off date can be fixed to bring properties under such a facility.

Under Section 241(7) of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, any category of buildings can be exempted from OC.

Shetty, in his opinion, said the government can exempt a category of buildings "if there is proper justification and application of mind".

He made it clear that there can't be a general exemption. "...(exemption) can only be for a category and based on cogent reasons, keeping in mind the larger public interest and orderly urban development," he stated.

▸ OC, Page 6

FCRA licence of Ladakh activist's NGO cancelled

SRINAGAR, DHNS: A day after violent protests left four people dead and over 70 injured in Ladakh, the MHA on Thursday cancelled the foreign funding licence of activist Sonam Wangchuk's NGO. The move came days after the CBI launched a probe into alleged FCRA violations by the organisation.

Details on Page 10

Age mismatch triggers pension fraud suspicion

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka might have lost thousands of crores over several years as persons falsely claimed they were 60 years of age to receive social security pensions meant for senior citizens. There are about 26 lakh beneficiaries of the old age pension whose age, as per their Aadhaar, are below 60 years, officials have found out.

Details on Page 6

Caste census: No HC stay; BC panel told to protect data

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday declined to stop the ongoing socio-economic and educational survey (caste census) undertaken by the state government.

However, a division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Joshi directed the Karnataka Backward Classes Commission to ensure that the collected data is protected and to publicise that participation of citizens in the survey is voluntary.

"We do not consider it apposite to interdict the impugned survey mid-way. However, we state that the data collected during the survey shall not be disclosed to any person, including the government. The commission shall ensure that the data is fully protected and is kept confidential," the court said while adjourning the hearing to the first week of December.

"We further direct the commission to issue (a) public notification that participation in the survey is voluntary and no person is obligated to disclose any information.

▸ Caste census, Page 6

MoD, HAL ink Rs 62k-cr deal for 97 additional Tejas jets

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

MEGA DEFENCE BUYS

2025 deal
- Value: **Rs 62,370 cr**
- 97 Tejas Mk-1A: **68 fighter + 29 trainer**

2021 deal
- Value: **Rs 47,000 cr**
- 83 Tejas Mk- 1A: **73 fighter + 10 trainer**
- No aircraft from 2021 deal delivered yet

The Ministry of Defence on Thursday signed its biggest contract with Bengaluru-based Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to buy 97 Tejas Mk-1A fighter jets at a cost of Rs 62,370 crore.

The mega deal to procure 68 fighter and 29 twin-seater trainer variants of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) would commence by 2027-28 and was to be completed in six years, official sources said.

The Cabinet Committee on Security had approved the contract last month.

The aircraft will have an indigenous content of over 64%, with 67 additional items incorporated, over and above the previous LCA Mk-1A contract of Rs 47,000 crore, signed in February 2021, to purchase 83 aircraft.

▸ HAL deal, Page 6

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Bihar-based fraudsters behind actor Upendra's phone hacking

BENGALURU, DHNS: Cyber-fraudsters from Bihar have been identified as the culprits behind the phone hacking of Kannada actor Upendra and his wife Priyanka, the police said.

Investigators traced the phone numbers and addresses to Bihar, from where the couple's mobile phones were remotely hacked and Rs 1.65 lakh stolen and transferred to four fake bank accounts.

The police said the hackers had used the same number to target mobile phones of several people in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. A special team will soon be sent to Bihar to nab them.

Two unlicensed consultancies busted for fraudulent overseas recruitment

Protector of Emigrants plans more raids amid rising illegal entities

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

HSR Layout-based Morganvij Immigration Services Pvt Ltd was found to be engaged in illegal recruitment activities, operating on the pretext of arranging overseas employment to the UAE, New Zealand, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

The Protector of Emigrants (PoE) office has cracked down on two unlicensed immigration consultancies running fraudulent overseas recruitment programmes in September.

The department plans similar operations amid concerns over illegal entities mushrooming across the city.

PoE raided HSR Layout-based Morganvij Immigration Services Pvt Ltd on September 24, finding it engaged in illegal overseas recruitment violating the Emigration Act, 1983.

The office received multiple complaints over six months against the agency. Individuals said it collected several lakhs per person for overseas employment in several countries like the UAE, New Zealand, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg.

Despite a May 19 notice, the agency shifted base and continued operating from another HSR Layout address. The firm also promoted services on Facebook and Instagram.

The raid, led by Avaneesh Shukla, PoE Bengaluru, recovered documents, registers and materials. A case was registered at the HSR Layout police station.

Another case was filed at the Thalagattapura police station against an unlicensed recruitment operator suspected of recruiting individuals for Golden Triangle region employment via Telegram and WhatsApp.

"This operation was carried out by a woman who was working for a Chinese company, operating out of the Myawaddy region in Myanmar, and suspected of being involved in cyberslavery. The investigation into the case is currently ongoing," a senior official involved in the September 6 raid said.

Offenders face charges under Emigration Act, 1983. Section 10 bars overseas recruitment without a valid Registration Certificate from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Violations face imprisonment up to two years and Rs 2,000 fine under sections 24 and 25. Repeat offences double penalties.

"Immigration consultants provide overseas recruitment services under the guise of education-related immigration services. These agencies lack recruitment licences. The public needs due diligence before choosing unregistered firms that often-run scams. We warn all individuals and entities in unauthorised overseas recruitment — including study abroad consultants, PR visa facilitators, or work permit advisors — to cease such activities immediately," the official said.

Advisory by PoE

PoE Bengaluru advises overseas job aspirants to verify recruitment agency credentials at www.emigrate.gov.in. The portal lists registered recruitment agencies.

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पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता स्वर्णरेखा वितरण
प्रमंडल, बुटी, राँची–834009

शुद्धि–पत्र

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता स्वर्णरेखा वितरण प्रमंडल, बुटी, राँची अन्तर्गत ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–पे0स्व0वि0/वितरण/02/2025–26 दिनांक 12.09.2025 जो (PR No. 361939)* 25-26 D के द्वारा विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित थी, जिसका प्रथम शुद्धि–पत्र (PR No. 362804)* 25-26 D के द्वारा समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित है, में क्रम संख्या–2 में बीड प्राप्ति (ऑन लाईन बिडिंग) की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय तिथि 03.10.2025 के जगह पर तिथि 03.09.2025 एवं क्रम संख्या–3 में (निविदा अन्तर्गत परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रधन की राशि ई–गवर्नेस विभाग झारखण्ड मंत्रालय धुर्वा, राँची के आदेश सह ज्ञापांक 120 दिनांक 03.10.2023 के अनुरूप Online करने की तिथि) में तिथि 03.10.2025 के जगह पर तिथि 03.09.2025 टंकण भूलवश अंकित हो गया है।

अतः शुद्धि–पत्र में क्रम संख्या–2 एवं क्रम संख्या–3 में प्रकाशित तिथि 03.09.2025 के जगह पर तिथि 03.10.2025 पढ़ा जाय।

यह शुद्धि–पत्र परिमाण विपत्र का भाग होगा एवं शेष पूर्ववत् रहेंगे।

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PR 362952 Drinking Water and Sanitation(25-26)#D

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3. Details of eligibility criteria are as under :-
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   (b) Age - 64 years or below.
   (c) Experience - Management of Unit Run Canteen (URC) and Handling of Accounts.
   (d) Honorarium - Rs 80,000/- per month (all inclusive).
4. The candidates with experience in Management of URCs/ Handling of Accounts may apply with a copy of Record of Service and Resume directly to the Canteen Officer, Golden Palm Canteen Cell, C/o HQ K&K Sub Area, Cubbon Road, Bangalore - 01 with full address and mobile No, through Regd Post or by mail ID No : **gpccellkksa@gmail.com by 31 October 2025.**

FORM RSC-4
[Pursuant to rule 3(3)]
Before the National Company Law Tribunal at Bengaluru Bench
Company Petition No. 07 of 2025
Toyotsu Bharat Integrated Services Private Limited ...Applicant

PUBLICATION OF ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

It is hereby notified that pursuant to the application presented to the honourable National Company Law Tribunal at Bengaluru bench (**Hon'ble Tribunal**), on the 29th day of January 2025 for confirming the reduction of the share capital of the above company.

The Hon'ble bench by order dated **02.09.2025** along with Corrigendum Order have allowed the petition hereby approving the Reduction of Paid-up Capital of the Applicant company through **NCLT FORM RSC-6**.

In pursuant to this we are hereby publishing the order of confirmation of the reduction of share capital of the Applicant company as directed by the Hon'ble Tribunal.

THE FORM OF MINUTE PROPOSED TO BE REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 66 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2013 is as follows:

"The paid-up capital of Toyostu Bharat Integrated Services Private Limited, is henceforth Rs.185,07,81,050 (Rupees One Hundred and Eight- Five Crores Seven Lakh Eighty-One Thousand Fifty only) divided into 18,50,78,105 (Eighteen Crore Fifty Lakh Seventy-Eight Thousand One Hundred Five only) equity shares of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) each reduced from Rs.250,01,61,050 (Two Hundred Fifty Crore One Lakh Sixty-One Thousand Fifty Rupees Only) divided into 25,00,16,105 (Twenty-Five Crore Sixteen Thousand Fifty Only) equity shares of Rs.10 (Rupees Ten only) each."

Dated this 25th day of September 2025

For Toyotsu Bharath Integrated Services Private Limited
Sd/-
Sadanori Isshiki
Authorised Signatory

INVITING EOI FOR PURCHASING DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES

Notice No. Mech./DSL/Condemnation/2015/20 Vol.-1 Dated: 23-09-2025. The principal Chief Electrical Engineer of Electrical Department, N.F. Railway invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from prospective purchasers for purchase of 06 Nos. of WDG3A ALCO Diesel Locomotives (Loco No. 13008, 14764, 14977,13015, 14838 & 14970 of NGCD Diesel shed of N.F. Railway). These Locomotives are surplus ALCO Diesel Locos and aged more than 15 years in running condition. Locomotives can be inspected at Diesel sheds, New Guwahati (NGCD). For any queries please contact Dy.CME/DSL/NFR on any working day (Monday - Friday) between 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM (Contact No. 9957550408). The responds may be submitted in an envelope super scribed "EOI FOR PURCHASING DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES IN RUNNING CONDITION" to the address mentioned below, latest by 09.10.2025. Proposal may also be sent by email to **ssedslmlg@gmail.com** Office of the PCEE, N.F.Railway, Maligaon, Guwahati-781011.

Dy.CME/D/HQ, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
'Khanij Bhavan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - L13100TG1958GOI001674

CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT
E-Tender Notice (Open Tender Enquiry for Domestic Bidding)
Tender Enquiry No: HO(Contracts)/KIOM-SWAM/HAM/NMDC/2025/279 **Dated** 25.09.2025
NMDC Limited, A "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites online bids through MSTC Portal from experienced domestic bidders for the work of **(a)** Development of feeding system, suitable conveying system with 1500 tph (rated capacity) for transportation of iron ore from Kumaraswamy mine to Swamihalli siding, stacking, spreading, weighing, and loading into rail wagons at Swamihalli siding at Donimalai, Karnataka on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) on a Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)." **And (b)** "The operation & maintenance of the developed facilities for an estimated period of 15 years from date of commissioning, which shall be coterminous with Kumaraswamy mining lease, i.e. October 2042".
The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and / or downloaded from **25.09.2025** to **24.10.2025** from following website links;
1. NMDC website – **https://nmdcportals.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender**
2. Central Public Procurement portal – **https://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app** and search tender through tender enquiry number
3. MSTC Portal - portal **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprocn/**
For accessing the bid document from MSTC portal, bidders to visit MSTC website (use Microsoft Edge browser for compatibility) and search **Tender Event No. NMDC/Head Office/Contract/29/25-26/ET/393.**
The bidders are requested to submit their bids online through MSTC Portal. The details of submission of bid through online are given in NIT. The Bidders on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC's website/CPP Portal/ MSTC Portal for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.
For further clarification, the following can be contacted:
Executive Director (Works), NMDC Limited, Hyderabad, Fax No. 040 – 2353 4746, Telephone No. 040 – 23532800, email: **contracts@nmdc.co.in.**
For and on behalf of NMDC Ltd.
Executive Director (Works)

National Land Monetization Corporation
(100% Govt. of India Owned Company)

National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) is a wholly owned Government of India company set up for the monetization of non-core assets of CPSEs and other Government agencies. NLMC invites applications on contractual basis for the following post:

Post	Number of Vacancies
Real Estate Consultant	Two (2)

For detailed advertisement, please visit NLMC's website **https://nlmc.dpe.gov.in/.**
All addendums, corrigendum etc. related to the aforesaid engagement shall be published on NLMC's website only.

Office: Room No. 006, Block-14, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003,
E-mail ID: sk-nlmc-dpe@gov.in
•Scan here for detailed advertisement.
•Last date of submission of Application : 16.10.2025.

CBC 15229/12/0002/2526

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CEE/Tr(OP)Z/KLB/SEE(O)/AEE-5/2025-26/7946 & 7960 Date : 24-09-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP mode only)

KPTCL, Transmission (Operations) Zone, Kalaburagi, Invites tenders from the eligible bidders for the following work on Partial Turnkey Basis, including Supply of all Materials/ Equipments and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioning.

(1) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/Replacement of **YAKATAPURA** Transformer for **Replacement of 2x10MVA 110/11kV Power Transformers by 2x20MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformers at 110/11kV Yakatapura sub-station in Bidar Taluk, Bidar District.** (Excluding supply 20 MVA power transformer & 11kv PCVCB switchgears) Amount put to tender: **Rs. 58,17,090/-**

(2) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/Replacement of **Kolhar** Transformer-**Call-2** for **Replacement of 1x10MVA 110/11kV Power Transformers by 1x20MVA, 110/11kV Power at 110/11kV Kolhar sub-station** in Bidar Taluk, Bidar District. (Excluding supply 20MVA power transformers). Amount put to tender: **Rs. 40,75,802/-**

For more information log on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or directly on procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 26.09.2025.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Elec.),
Transmission (Operation) Zone, KPTCL,
"Prasaran Bhavan", Sedam Road, Kalaburagi.

Paediatrician, govt medical officer arrested in fake disability certificates case

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Malleswaram police have arrested two more persons in connection with fake disability certificates issued to secure medical seats under the specially abled quota.

Dr Hariprasad, a medical officer at the government hospital in Hosapete, and Dr Srinivas, a paediatrician, were arrested on Thursday.

With this, five people have been arrested in the case, including a government doctor and a teacher.

The action follows a complaint filed by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) after discrepancies were detected during certificate verification.

The police had earlier arrested three suspects — Bharamppa, a teacher from Nandini Layout; Umesh Chaudhury, a first-grade assistant from Hosapete; and Sudhakar, an assistant at a primary healthcare centre in Mangaluru — on September 17.

The police said that 21 candidates applying for medical seats through UG CET and

UG NEET this year had submitted forged certificates claiming to be hearing impaired. KEA officials grew suspicious during scrutiny and reported the matter.

Investigators suspect the accused were part of a fraud network operating for years. Further investigation is underway.

Hebbal PHC transformed with MLC funds

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Government Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Hebbal has been transformed into a modern five-storey Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) using MLC development funds allocated in 2022 to BJP MP and former MLC Lahar Singh Siroya.

The funds were utilised to construct four floors of the health centre, instal a stretcher lift, a DG set and complete key electrical works. The UPHC now spans 15,000 sqft.

It has 15 healthcare professionals, including doctors, a medical officer, nurses, auxiliary nurse, and midwives (ANMs). OPD services will be available every day, vaccination on Mondays and Tuesdays, and antenatal care on Mondays and Fridays. All national healthcare schemes can be availed here, a statement from Singh's office said.

Although there are many large hospitals in the area, the government hospital remains the true lifeline for the financially weaker sections, he said at the inauguration.

IN THE COURT OF THE XXX ADDL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BENGALURU
O.S. No. 2810/2025 (CCH-31)
BETWEEN : MRS. ANITA NANDA Aged about 61 years Wife of Mr. Sunil Nanda Residing at No. 1077 12th Main, HAL 2nd Stage Indiranagar, Bengaluru 560038 ....Plaintiff
AND : MS. PALLAVI PATEL@ PALLAVI MANUDEV GOWDA ....Defendant
SUMMON'S TO THE DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION
TO, PALLAVI PATEL @ PALLAVI MANUDEV GOWDA Aged about 41 years Daughter of Hakimchand Devehand Chotai Wife of Manudev Gowda Residing at Sweet Home, Opposite Kashi Hari Apartments, Near Silver Springs Bungalows, Avanti Vihar Main Road Gitanjali Nagar, Shankar Nagar, Raipur, Chattisgarh - 492007
Also at- Flat bearing No. 298 (Old No. D1703) Sattwa Gold Summit, Municipal Ward No. 56, 54-Hoodi, 1st Main, Kuvempu Layout, Visthar, Byrathi, Bengaluru - 560077
WHEREAS the Plaintiff above named has instituted a suit against the Defendant under Order VII Rules 1 and 2 read with Section 26 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 seeking reliefs of eviction, payment of arrears of rents, interest on outstanding rents and compensation with respect to property described in the Schedule annexed to the Plaint and described herein below under Schedule.
You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person on **14/11/2025 at 11:00 A.M** before the XXX Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Civil Court, at Bengaluru (CCH-31). You are directed to produce on that day all the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your defence. Should you fail to appear, the suit will be proceeded placing you ex-parte.
Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of immovable property being **Flat bearing No. 192, situated on the 19th and 20th floors of Tower 2, Pebble Bay, A-11, 1st Main, RMV 2nd Stage, Bengaluru -560094,** having a super built-up area of about 5025 Sq. Ft., along with two covered car parking areas, share the proportionate undivided area, and rights to the common areas including the terrace.
Given under my hand and seal of the court, this **23rd day of September 2025.**
By Order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar
City Civil Court Bangalore
SUHAS M S, ADVOCATE
ALMT Legal No. 2, Lavelle Road Bengaluru-01

REPLACEMENT OF IPS

E-Tender Notice No. RN-ST-24-2025-26; Date: 22-09-2025. E-tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work. **Name of Work**: Replacement of IPS for its upgradation to new version in Rangiya Division. Tender Value: ₹4,33,92,638.82; Earnest Money: ₹3,67,000.00.**E-tender will be closed** at 15:00 hrs. on 22-10-2025 and **Opened** at 15:30 hrs. on 22-10-2025 at Sr. DSTE/Rangiya's office. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**.
DRM (S&T)/Rangiya
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice Bid Number:No:SBC-MECH-CW-ROH-25 Dated: 18-09-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Bengaluru Division Outsourcing of ROH activities at Satellite Goods Terminal Wagon Depot of Bengaluru Division for a period of two years on outcome basis.	Rs. 2,71,40,471.58

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 10-10-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer
PUB/507/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Dy. Chief Project Manager (GS)/ South Eastern Railway, Chakradharpur acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender : **Tender Notice No. : CKP-GSU-25-26-7; Name of work :** Construction of Hathi passage (underpass at 9 locations) for movement of Elephant in the jurisdiction of Odisha state in Chakradharpur Division; **Tender Value :** ₹ 1,43,11,82,097.07; **EMD :** ₹ 73,05,900.00; **Cost of Tender form :** ₹ 0.00; **Date of Opening :** 24.10.2025. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. The tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps/gov.in** The tenderer /bidders must have class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered under on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. **NOTE:** e-Tender forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority-Rly.Bd's letter No.2020/CE-1/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020). **(PR-667)**

IN THE COURT OF
II ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU
(CCH-17)
LAC. NO. 87/2014
BETWEEN:
Sri Tippaiah and others
... Claimants
AND:
The Spl. LAO. BDA
... Respondents
NOTICE/SUMMONCE TO THE CLAIMANT NO. 1 TO 4 U/O.5 RULE 20 OF CPC.
1. N. Tippaiah S/o. Narasimhaiah
2. V. Krishnaiah Shastry
3. P.S. Nagaraju
4. V.R. Dakshinamurthy
All are resident of Sy. No. 116/1, Kacharakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk
Whereas the above case is referred by the Respondent U/s. 30, 31(2) of Land Acquisition Act 1894 in respect of land acquired to the extent of 2 acre 13 guntas of land in Sy. No. 116/1 of Kacharakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru and deposited the compensation amount.
The above case has been posted **06.12.2025 at about 11.00 a.m.** The Claimants No. 1 to 4 you are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or through Counsel on the aforementioned date. If you fail to appear the case will be decided ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 15th day September 2025.
By order of the Hon'ble Court
Senior Sheristedar
City Civil Court
Bengaluru
Advocate for Respondent: Marigowda
Advocate
Ooliga Complex, 2nd Floor,
Near 8th Cross, Sampige Road,
Malleswaram, Bengaluru-560 003.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
LABORATORY FOR ELECTRO-OPTICS SYSTEMS (LEOS)
PEENYA, BANGALORE-560058. LEOS CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE DIVISION (LCMD)
[Phone: (080)-22685088, 5047, 5094, 5086, 5087 Fax: (080)-28392310]

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (NIET)

On behalf of the President of India, item rate e-tender is invited for the following works:

Name of the work : NIT NO & Date: Contract for repainting at various locations in LEOS, Aryabhata, Guest House and ISRAD Campus, Peenya, Bengaluru-58. NIET No: CMG/LEOS/2025-26/LMN-06; Dtd: 19.09.2025; **Estimated cost put to tender in Rs. 16.35 Lakhs; EMD Rs : 32,700/-; Period of Completion in months :** 01 Year; Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 25.09.2025; **Closing Date :** 10.10.2025

Name of the work : NIT NO & Date: Contract for Aluminium Partitions at LEOS Campus, Peenya, Bengaluru-58. NIET No: CMG/LEOS/2025-26/LMN-05; Dtd: 19.09.2025; **Estimated cost put to tender in Rs. 16.32 Lakhs; EMD Rs : 32,640/-; Period of Completion in months :** 1 Year; Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 25.09.2025; **Closing Date :** 10.10.2025

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO

-Sd- GROUP DIRECTOR
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (C&MG)
URSC, BANGALORE.

Jharkhand State Watershed Mission (JSWM)
Rural Development Department, Govt. of Jharkhand
4th Floor, FFP Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
Phone: 0651-2446019, 2446217
Website: rdd.jharkhand.gov.in, Email: rddjharkhand.slna@gmail.com

Advt. No.–01 (SLNA-JSWM)2024ग्रा0वि0वि0/09 Ranchi, Date: 25.092025

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Empanelment of Qualified Agencies for Production and Supply of Tissue Cultured Spineless Cactus Plants

The Jharkhand State Watershed Mission (JSWM), Rural Development Department, Government of Jharkhand invites "**Request for Proposal (RFP)**" from eligible agencies to submit their proposal for **"Production and Supply of Tissue Cultured Spineless Cactus Plants"** under Watershed Development Components-Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana 2.0 (WDC-PMKSY 2.0) projects.
Interested eligible agencies may submit their "**Request for Proposal (RFP)**" in a sealed envelope clearly superscripted as Request for Proposal for **"Production and Supply of Tissue Cultured Spineless Cactus Plants"** latest by 17.00 hours on **16/10/2025** RFP needs to be submitted to concerned office by Post/Speed post/by hand (in hard copy duly signed and sealed). Interested eligible agencies may obtain further information and procedures for submitting the "Request for Proposal" from the official website i.e **www.rdd.jharkhand.gov.in.**

(Sunil Kumar Sinha)
Administrative Officer,
Jharkhand State Watershed Mission (JSWM),
Rural Development Department,
Government of Jharkhand,
FFP Building, 1st Floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004, Jharkhand.

PR 362886 Rural Development(25-26).D

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Hero MotoCorp Ltd. Regd. Office: The Grand Plaza, Plot No.2, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj Phase - II, New Delhi - 110070, India. I CIN: L35911DL1984PLC017354 I For further information, contact your nearest Hero MotoCorp authorized outlet or visit us on www.HeroMotoCorp.com. Accessories and features shown may not be a part of standard fitment. Always wear a helmet while riding a two-wheeler. ~Offer amount and combination of offer may vary for model/variant and states and it is applicable on select models only, for a limited time period or till stock lasts. $Finance offer is at the sole discretion of the Financier, subject to its respective T&Cs, Available at select dealerships. ^T&C apply, Offer available only on limited stores. *Limited period offer, T&C apply. As per cumulative dispatch numbers till August 2025. #Ex-showroom price of Passion+ and Splendor+ in Delhi.

TOLL FREE 1800 266 0018

AUTHORISED DEALERS: **BENGALURU - LALBAGH ROAD**: **PRAKASH HERO - PH: 9289922117**. **PEENYA**: **SAI HERO** - PH: 9289922830. **BYATARAYANAPURA**: **BIMAL HERO** - PH: 9289922863.**HOSUR ROAD: RT KRISHNA HERO** - PH: 9289923177. **BANASHANKARI**: **SAI HERO** - PH: 9289922476. **RAJAJI NAGAR**: **MAX HERO** - PH: 9289923023. **BANASWADI**: **BHAGATH HERO** - PH: 9289922738. **MAGADI ROAD**: **POORNA HERO** - PH: 9289923212. **MARATHALLI: VAAYURATHA HERO** - PH: 9289923811. **KAMAKSHIPALYA: POORNA MOTORS** – PH: 9606922534. **JP NAGAR**: **SAI HERO**, PH: 99002 36280. **KANAKPURA ROAD:** SAI HERO - 8904677394. **HOSKOTE**: **BHAGATH HERO** - PH: 8884600051. **K R PURAM**: **BHAGATH HERO** - PH: 7829488706. **JIGANI**: **RT KRISHNA HERO –** PH: 9482788355. **RT NAGAR**: **BIMAL HERO** 9535327710.**TUMKUR**: **SAI HERO** - PH: 9289922986. **B.H.ROAD** – **SAI HERO**, PH. 7022752841.**KUNIGAL**: **SAI HERO** - PH: 7022752858. **TIPTUR**: **SAI HERO** PH. 9164840456. **CHIKKABALLAPUR**: **MANJUNATH HERO** - PH: 9821751332. **KOLAR: SAI BALAJI HERO** PH. 9821745024. **DODDABALLAPURA**: **BIMAL HERO** 9742202125. **Associate Dealer: BELATHUR** - 9902649569. **MADIWALA** - 9731660639. **BANASHANKARI 3RD STAGE** - 9513353864. **BANNERGHATTA ROAD** - 9845397222. **KENGERI** - 9739275523. **YELAHANKA** - 9341025589. **MYSORE ROAD**: 9611997733. **DEVANAHALLI** - 9964560599. **KANAKAPURA** - 9880212346. **WHITEFIELD** - 9741646466. **BAGEPALLI** - 282828. **SRINIVASPUR** - 9738504002. **SIDLAGHATTA** - 254827. **NELAMANGALA** - 27723395. **PAVAGADA** - 9740324639. **MADHUGIRI** - 9972278989. **VIJAYAPURA**: 9449619920. **SIRA**: 9448417393. **CHANDAPURA**: 9481329064. **VIDYARANYAPURA:** 9606934533. **MAGADI:** 9482090890. GOTTIGERE: 81976 78979 **Also Available at: DUNNASANDRA:** 8310166369. **HSR LAYOUT**: 7428893265. **MATHIKERE**: 9035027951. **DOMLUR:** 7353919910- **J.P.NAGAR**: 9035024274. **RT NAGAR:** 9535327710. . **ATTIBELE**: 8050609104**. B NARAYANAPURA**: 9945472149. **VARTHUR**: 9900877227. **PAPAREDDYPALYA**: 9916678309. **ANEKAL**: 9739519252. **KONANKUNTE**: 9886122251. **SARJAPUR MAIN ROAD**: 8762860999. **BIDADI:** 9844767719. **RAMANAGARA:** 9663399909. **CHIKKANAYAKANAHALLI**: 9880807399. **TURUVEKERE:** 9448403205. **KORATAGERE**: 9731713711. **PERESANDRA**: 9901502049. **For Bulk deals/Corporate purchase - "bangalore@heromotocorp.com" & "kiran.kumart@heromotocorp.com"** For Buy/Sell/Exchange Old any Vehicle contact **VV PURAM, Bengaluru** Olety Sai Hero Sure: **98450 74491**

Rs 750 cr for filling potholes in city: DCM

Accuses BJP of not doing much to ease infra problems

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday said the state government has released Rs 750 crore to fill potholes in Bengaluru.

Shivakumar

He also criticised the BJP, claiming it had not built even a small pillar or flyover to ease traffic congestion during its tenure.

"We are committed to fixing the pothole issue in Bengaluru. The chief minister has released a grant of Rs 750 crore for this purpose," he told reporters after paying his last respects to Kannada author SL Bhyarappa at Ravindra Kalakshetra on JC Road.

Responding to the BJP's protest on potholes, he said: "It is true there are potholes in Bengaluru, and we are filling them up on a war footing. We are in this state due to the misrule of the previous BJP government. The protesting leaders must understand that the Centre has not given any funds for Bengaluru's development in spite of the city's tax contributions."

Traditionally, the now-dissolved Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) was allocating about Rs 50 crore for pothole-filling in its budget.

In 2022-23, the civic body spent a large portion of its Rs 6,000-crore grant on roadworks, but questions remain on the current status of the projects and the condition of the asphalted roads.

GBA's rush to fill potholes sparks quality concerns across Bengaluru

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru, DHNS: Even as the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) rushes to meet Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's October 31 pothole-filling deadline, citizens have questioned the quality of work.

While they raise fears of accidents over the uneven asphalt patches on MG Road near Anil Kumble Circle, similar issues plague HSR Layout, Hulimavu, Mahalakshmipuram, Ramamurthynagar, and Outer Ring Road (ORR).

An ambulance moves through traffic on a pothole-ridden stretch in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Social media users express scepticism. "These patch works will not help in any way," one comment read. Another stated: "Next time I will pay taxes like this only, in patches."

Patchwork proves historically ineffective on ORR, said Manas Das, president of the Outer Ring Road Companies' Association. "When the BBMP tried fixing ORR potholes with patchwork, it peeled off within two to three weeks. Even recently, fixed potholes are difficult to differentiate from unfixed ones," he said.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao said engineers select filling methods based on road conditions. "There is no one solution for all roads and potholes. Taking into consideration several factors, they are fixing potholes with either the hot mix or the cold mix. They are also using bituminous concrete and EcoFix," he told *DH*.

Bengaluru's five municipal corporations are spending Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000 per pothole. Rao organised a pothole repair workshop for engineers and commissioners in August.

Beyond potholes, urban expert RK Mishra has urged authorities to distinguish between potholes and bad roads. "Bengaluru's roads have not been properly asphalted in years, and this has led to several bad stretches. These cannot be treated the same as potholes. While the government has set aside a budget for fixing these bad roads, pothole fixing should be a weekly exercise, not an annual one where the chief minister and his deputy are forced to count potholes in the city," he said.

He also urged citizens and media to track major road projects instead. "Rs 694 crore has been allocated to fix major roads, about Rs 1,000 crore for white-topping, and Rs 300 crore for the high-density corridor — these are three major projects under way, and the public must demand transparency on them. The public must have access to the Contract Management System to track these projects," he added.

Professor Ashish Verma of IISc has stressed the importance of stormwater drains. "All roads must have camber, cross slopes that ensure water drains to the side. And to get rid of this water, stormwater drains are important. If this is not ensured, despite applying the best pothole-filling practices, they will resurface. Our engineers are aware of this. But it is not always applied," he said.

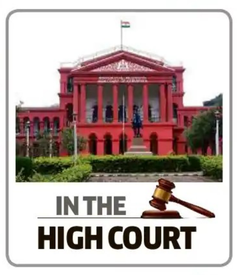
PIL against twin tunnel road: HC notice to state, GBA

Petitioners say project lacks statutory approvals

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday ordered a notice to the state government on a PIL petition against the 16.7-km Bengaluru twin tunnel road project.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Joshi also ordered notices to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, and others, directing them to submit their respective responses.



The petition was filed by Adikesavalu Ravindra, Vinod Vyasulu and NS Mukunda, residents of Bengaluru. They challenged the July 14, 2025, tender notification issued by the state government and the BBMP (now GBA), the feasibility study report of December 2024, and the Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of February and March 2025.

The petitioners claimed that the project, estimated to cost Rs 17,780 crore, has been advanced without lawful appraisal of its economic viability, social impact, and constitutional validity. The authorities concerned have not sought an approval of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority and the Bengaluru Metropolitan Planning Committee, making the project constitutionally and statutorily infirm, they said.

The petitioners said the first DPR was submitted in February, while the second in March 2025 was appended along with the tender dossier.

"The impugned project envisages imposition of exorbitant tolls exclusively on cars, while dropping the dedicated bus lanes as mandated in the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) and privileging private car usage, thereby creating a discriminatory expressway for the elite, which is complete violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India," the petition said.

The petitioners further noted that the project has deliberately circumvented the mandatory requirement of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and environmental clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, read with the EIA notification 2006.

The petitioners stated that the project involves massive excavation, construction of shafts and ramps as well as diversion of stormwater drains, all of which squarely fall within the definition of environmental impact.

"The tunnel is restricted to cars and taxis while two-wheelers, autorickshaws and buses are altogether barred. This creates an arbitrary classification among similarly placed urban commuters. It lacks any intelligible differentia that bears a rational nexus to the stated aims of decongestion, safety or cost recovery. Excluding two-wheelers and autorickshaws, which account for a substantial share of peak hour trips, cannot reduce congestion on the network," the petition said.

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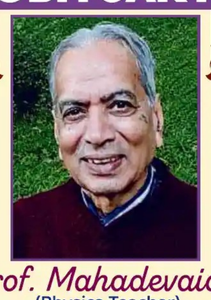

Prof. Mahadevaiah
(Physics Teacher)
With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved father, Prof. Mahadevaiah, who departed for his heavenly abode on 24th September 2025 at 10:55 PM.
The last rites will be performed on 26th September 2025.
We request your prayers for the departed soul Om Shanti
Smt. BM Kamala
BM Anilkumar
BM Mamatha/Gnanamurthy
BM Kavitha/Nithin Srivastav
BM Sirilekha/Suhas/Dhyan
Relatives & Friends

BDA extends 40% land offer to PRR farmers amid acquisition disputes

BENGALURU, DHNS

Facing resistance from farmers unwilling to part with land for the 74-km Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC), the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has introduced three new compensation options.

The most prominent offer is 40% of developed land — around 9,583 square feet per acre — in exchange for land relinquished for the corridor. The other two options include Transferable Development Right (TDR) certificates and additional Floor Area Ratio (FAR) to allow extra construction beyond existing limits.

Earlier, the BDA had offered only cash compensation — twice the guidance value for urban properties and three times for rural properties. Landowners, especially in eastern Bengaluru where market value has surged, resisted this.

The project has been stalled for two decades due to land acquisition challenges.

At a meeting on Thursday, BDA Chairman NA Haris said the revised options would create a win-win situation. "We are providing the best offer that no government has ever given," he said, adding that 40% of developed sites would be allotted in existing or new layouts.

"We have a lot of vacant sites. On top of that, we will be developing six new layouts. Landowners will receive alternative land in the nearest location," he said, adding that the government may also consider providing commercial sites.

Members of Raitha Sangha and land owners submitted a memorandum on the Peripheral Ring Road project to BDA Chairman NA Haris, BBC project chairman LK Atheeq and officials on Thursday. DH PHOTO/KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

Retired IAS officer LK Atheeq, chairperson of the BBC project, said the options were designed keeping in mind that about 70% of landowners would still have land abutting the 74-km corridor. "We have planned a 12-metre access road to their land. This will increase their land value. If we drop the project, their land value will crash. We are hopeful that landowners will be satisfied with what we have offered," he said.

He added that HUDCO had offered to lend Rs 27,000 crore for the project. "We estimate that Rs 20,000 crore is needed for land acquisition and Rs 7,000 crore for civil works," he said, noting that about 200 acres of the 2,560 acres notified are government-owned.

However, farmers were divided on the offer.

Mavallipura Srinivas, a farmer leader, asked why compensation was not being provided under the 2013 Land Acquisition Act passed by the Congress-led UPA government. He argued the project should be dropped and the land denotified if funds were insufficient.

KRISHNA, A farmer

"Agencies such as the Karnataka Housing Board are offering 50% developed sites. Even Siddaramaiah's wife received sites under a 50:50 ratio in MUDA. In that case, why offer just 40% land, especially in Bengaluru, where the real estate value is so high?

Reach airport early during festivals

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has issued a passenger advisory, urging flyers to plan their travel to the Kempegowda International Airport to allow sufficient time for security checks, as the airport is expecting a surge in passenger volumes during the festive season throughout September and October.

"Owing to the high security measures in September and October, there may be delay in passenger processing at BLR Airport...

"Please get in touch with your respective airline for further information," read the advisory.

Traffic advisory issued

BENGALURU, DHNS: The traffic police have issued an advisory to address congestion along Whitefield Hope Farm Main Road, starting Thursday.

The U-turn at Royal Mart Junction will be closed. Vehicles travelling from Ambedkar Gutte to Hope Farm can use Vijayanagar Road and proceed from Munisingh Junction towards Hope Farm and ITPL.

Vehicles travelling from Royal Mart and Whitefield to Ambedkar Gutte can proceed to Ambedkar Gutte via Hope Farm.

Durga Puja pandals with creative themes set up in city

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengali community is set to celebrate Durga Puja with themed pandals across the city.

At Nagavara, the North Bangalore Cultural Samiti is organising its 48th Durga Puja with a pandal inspired by the chess board to congratulate the new generation of Indian chess grandmasters. The squares will be red and white, while the pieces will be golden and silver. The idol has been specially designed by artist Tarun Pal. It will be held from September 27 to October 2.

Similarly, Uttaran, a philanthropic association, is organising a Durga Puja on the theme 'Canvas to Clay'. The celebrations will take place at Manpho Convention Centre from September 28 to October 1.

Pro-Kannada activists ransack hotel over Hindi programme

BENGALURU, DHNS: Over 40 activists from the Kannada Rakshana Vedike (KRV) were arrested on Thursday after they barged into a Hindi programme at a five-star hotel in central Bengaluru and ransacked the premises.

The KRV members stormed the Taj West End Hotel, raising slogans, tearing up flex posters and smashing furniture on the third and final day of a 'Hindi Saptaha' (Hindi Week) programme organised by the Committee of Parliament on Official Language, which comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs' Department of Official Language.

The protesters decried what they see as the ongoing "imposition" of Hindi over Kannada and other regional languages.

"We had information that MPs from northern states were present at the event and a discussion was being held on how to spread and impose Hindi. Our call is for all languages to have equal rights and status," KRV state organisation secretary Arun Javagal told *DH*.

The High Grounds police confirmed the arrests.

"As a preventive measure, we arrested 40 of the protesters after they gathered at the hotel to protest the programme. We produced them before the court and they have been remanded in judicial custody," a police officer involved in the investigation said.

A video grab showing the activists ransacking the programme venue on Thursday.

Staff of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation kicked off the South Zone Cricket Tournament 2025-26, organised by the EPFO, at Rajarajeshwari Medical College & Hospital Grounds in Bengaluru on Thursday. The participants were from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry and Lakshadweep. DH PHOTO

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I, CHANDRASHEKARA P.S. residing at Bengaluru-96, have changed my name as CHANDRASHEKAR P.S. vide affidavit dated 25/09/2025 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

I, RAHUL THIMMAIAH K, Father of Minor daughter CHARVI RAHULTHIMMAIAH Residing at G208, DSR Greenfields, Immadihalli Road, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560066, is changing to New name CHARVI R.K, vide affidavit dated 24/09/2025 before Notary Veena J, Bengaluru.

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IN THE CITY

GENERAL

Karnataka State Commission for Women: Workshop on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013; Government Arts College; KR Circle; 11 am.

Acharya Pathshala Commerce College: Inauguration of national seminar 'Jana Sangama-2025'; NR Colony; 10 am.

CULTURAL

Dhatu Creative: Doll exhibition; Mandala Cultural Centre, Kanakapura Road; 10.30 am.

Vachanajyoti Balaga: 'Vachana Dasara', recital by Vijay Manjappa and others; Basava Belaku, 7th Main, Doddabasti Main Road, Kalyan Cooperative Society Layout; 5 pm.

Yuvaka Sangha: 'Avadhana' by Shatavadhani R Ganesh, Avadhani Ramakrishna Pejattaya; 4th Block, Jayanagar; 5.45 pm.

Kappanna Angala: 'Leak out' story visualisation by Akshata Pandavapura; Kappanna Angala, 5th Main, ITI Colony, JP Nagar 1st Stage; 6.30 pm.

Stage Bengaluru: Staging of 'Shashvata Prihara', directed by Belur Raghunandan; C Ashwath Kalabhavan, NR Colony; 7 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Durga Maheshwaramma Temple: Suvarna alankara; Dance recital by Shweatha Babu and others; Temple premises, KR Puram; 6 pm.

Raghavendra Swami Mutt: Discourse by Ambareeshacharya; Mutt premises, Rajarajeshwari Nagar; from 6 pm onwards.

CITY WEATHER

FORECAST
Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.6°C
Minimum	20.4°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	85%
Sunset (Sept 26)	6:14 pm
Sunrise (Sept 27)	6:09 am
Moonrise	8:42 am
Moonset	8:25 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

MARUTI SUZUKI

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Late B'luru artist's anamorphic art museum to open October 3

Shereen Miller returned to Bengaluru in 2021 after living outside the country for over five decades

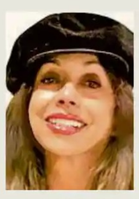
RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

A quiet tree-lined residential lane in Cooke Town is home to the paintings of an artist who championed anamorphic art at a time when it did not have many takers.

The late Shereen Miller, born Shereen Indrani Raju in Benson Town, was always drawn to art but was instead asked to focus on more sensible pursuits. "She would still sketch and hide her artwork under her bed," says Cheryl Miller, Shereen's daughter.

Shereen was born in 1941, an era when women artists were few. She became a teacher and spent a few years working in Shimla and Darjeeling before moving to Kuwait in 1967. The distance from family gave her the space to explore her art and she went on to hold exhibitions in the country. On a trip to New York, she had an unexpected layover in Amsterdam where she saw an exhibition of anamorphic art from around the world. She was fascinated and wanted to learn to do it herself.

Anamorphic art is complex. It



Shereen Miller

only reveals itself when viewed at an angle and requires the participation of the viewer. "To excel at this art form, one needs a good grasp of mathematics and geometry. One should be able to paint in reverse and get the proportions right," shares Cheryl.

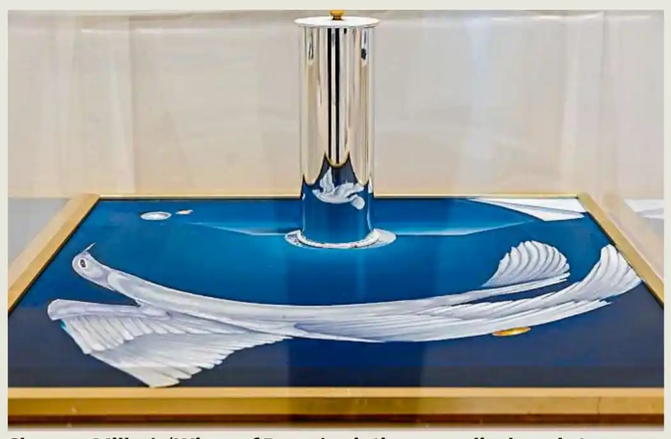
The gallery is spread across roughly 4,000 square feet. It is constructed on a property that Shereen purchased in the 70s. After living in the US for 34 years, Shereen decided it was time to return to Bengaluru and bring her artworks back with her. The mother-daughter duo moved back in 2021. However, Shereen passed away on April 28, 2023, a month before the construction of the museum was completed.

The artworks are arranged in chronological order and get progressively complex and intricate as one takes a tour of the space. Her earliest works, featuring abstract imagery, are not anamorphic. The later pieces, 24x24 oil paintings, feature what look like distorted images, placed flat facing up. A metal cylinder placed in the centre of the painting reflects the actual image as intended by the artist. The reflections reveal female forms in various postures — relaxing or hiding behind walls. Historical figures are also depicted in the works.

A painting titled 'Wings of Peace' won her recognition globally. It was commissioned by the United Nations in 1986, the International Year of Peace. She was picked from 76 artists for the job. It depicts a distorted image of a white dove. It was exhibited at St Paul's Cathedral in London. "She was the first living artist to showcase at St Paul's in its 400-year history," Cheryl shares.

The museum also has her teakwood sculptures, digital art and sketches, including a geometric self-portrait.

'Miller Museum of Anamorphic Art' opens to the public on October 3. Open Friday to Sunday, 11 am to 6 pm, at Carleston Road, Cooke Town. Visit millermuseumofanamorphicart.com for details.



Shereen Miller's 'Wings of Peace' painting, now displayed at the Miller Museum of Anamorphic Art in Cooke Town, was showcased at St Paul's Cathedral, London in 1986. She was the first living artist to display her work at the Cathedral in its 400-year history. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Stores see sharp surge in demand for Bhyrappa books

Works like 'Aavarana', 'Parva', 'Orphaned', 'Bhitti' and 'Yaana' are selling out fast

BARKHA KUMARI AND
RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

Following the passing of celebrated Kannada writer S L Bhyrappa on Wednesday, bookstores across the city have been doing brisk sales of his books. Some shops have run out of copies. With the author's publisher, Sahitya Bhandara, closed until Friday, stores are unable to restock his works immediately.

At Bookworm on Church Street, translated titles like 'Parva' and 'Orphaned' have been in great demand since Wednesday. Their stock of signed copies of the book 'Aavarana' have sold out, said Krishna Gowda, the proprietor. The controversial novel, which tackles religion, caste and prejudices, made history when it was published in 2007. It was reprinted 10 times within five months. Kannada titles like 'Nirakarana', 'Naayi Neralu', 'Bhitti' and 'Yaana' are also being purchased in large numbers. On Thursday, about 12 customers dropped in looking for his books, while on Wednesday, Krishna received about 25 orders on WhatsApp.

Titles like 'Gruhabhanga' and 'Mandra' in addition to 'Parva', 'Aavarana' and 'Bhitti' have been popular at The Book Hive, also on Church Street. "About 40-45 of Bhyrappa's books have been sold since Wednesday," said Keshav R, who runs the store. On Thursday, one customer purchased eight Bhyrappa titles, he reveals. Keshav has ordered more copies of 'Parva' and 'Aavarana', "but the distributor said that they will only be available after 10 days," he shared.

The Book Hive on Church Street has sold about 40 of S L Bhyrappa's books since the author's passing on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Between its biggest outlet in Gandhi Nagar and its online store, Sapna Book House had sold over 500 copies of Bhyrappa's works by Thursday morning. R Doddegowda, general manager of its Kannada books and publication wing, said, "We have all titles in stock, but only in limited numbers. The demand is likely to continue. Most of the readers are in their 40s or above," he said.

Since Wednesday, Ankita Pustaka in Gandhi Bazaar sold 17 copies of 'Aavarana', 12 each of 'Parva' and 'Bhitti', 10 of 'Gruhabhanga', eight each of 'Dharmashree' and 'Vamshavruksha', and a few copies of other titles. Earlier, they would sell only 2-3 copies a day. "A majority of the buyers were new to our store, and aged between 30 and 50," said its owner Prakash Kambathalli. He said their current stock will last until Dasara.

On Thursday morning, Mayi Gowda of Blossom Book House received a call asking for signed copies of Bhyrappa's books. "We didn't have any," he said. Bhyrappa's works have always been popular at Blossom, with Kannada originals outperforming translations. "Most buyers are elderly readers or Bengalureans living abroad," he added. 'Parva' and 'Uttara Kaanda' are most sought after among his translated works. The former is a retelling of the 'Mahabharata', while the latter reinterprets the 'Ramayana' through Sita's perspective.

At Beetle Book Shop in Vijayanagar, owner Dhananjaya N said sales have risen only slightly since the author's passing. "'Parva' is always the fastest-moving title in both Kannada and English. 'Vamshavruksha' and 'Yaana' are also popular," he said.

'MOST DEMAND COMING FROM B'LURU'

Sahitya Bhandara has been publishing Bhyrappa's writings. According to its proprietor, M G Arun, the demand for fresh supplies is coming mostly from the book stores in Bengaluru. As a mark of respect for Bhyrappa's passing, the centre has been closed until Friday. "We will start dispatching (the books) after that," he said.

Their translation wing, Subbu Publications, has announced a 25% discount on novels published by them, such as 'Matadana', 'Dharmashree', 'Kavalu' and 'Uttara Kaanda'.

Heart attacks now common in 30-40-year-olds

The increase in cases is linked to air pollution, passive smoking, and lifestyle factors, doctors say. World Heart Day is on September 29

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Heart attacks, once mostly seen in people over 50, are now affecting those in their 30s and 40s. Some patients are in their early 20s. City cardiologists say cases have risen over the past five years, driven by lifestyle factors like poor sleep and smoking, and air pollution.

"Around 40-50% of my heart attack patients are 30-45. We've seen a 10% increase in heart disease in this age group in the past five years," says Dr Gnanadev N C, interventional cardiologist. "Childhood obesity often carries into adulthood, raising long-term heart risks," he adds.

Dr Amith R, another interventional cardiologist, notes that 20% of his heart attack patients are under 40. It is no longer rare to see patients in their 20s. "Heart attacks under 40 have risen by 40-50% in my experience," he says.

He cites recent cases he treated: a 27-year-old smoker, a 24-year-old with Type 1 diabetes, and a 16-year-old stressed by exams. "Stress-induced heart attacks are rising across all ages," he warns.

Dr Chirag D, consultant-interventional cardiologist in Whitefield, has observed a 30-40% increase. It is linked to sedentary lifestyles and high processed-food intake, he notes.

"Many young patients sleep only 4-5 hours," says Dr Amith. Dr Sreekanth Shetty, director and HOD of cardiology at a Marathahalli hospital, notes that the World Health Organization (WHO) lists inadequate sleep alongside diabetes, hypertension, and smoking as a major risk factor.

KEEPING HEART ATTACKS AT BAY

- Get 7-8 hours of uninterrupted sleep. Practise sleep hygiene — no late screens, less caffeine after noon.
- Exercise regularly — 30 minutes of cardio, five days a week, along with yoga or meditation to combat stress.
- Eat balanced, healthy meals — cut down processed, fatty, and sugary foods.
- Avoid passive smoking by 'choosing company wisely'.
- Wear an N95 mask to reduce pollution exposure.
- Schedule routine health checks to track risk factors early.

Pollution, smoking big triggers

Pollution is an under-recognised culprit. Dr Shetty notes two-wheeler riders are especially at risk: "Particulate pollution is toxic to heart and brain blood vessels. In Bengaluru traffic, it can be as harmful as smoking several cigarettes a day." Over the last two years, Dr Amith has treated 10-15 BMTC and KSRTC drivers in their 30s. Despite minimal other risk factors, they suffered heart attacks from prolonged exposure to pollution. Smoking remains a major trigger. "Around 70-80% of patients in their 30s and 40s have smoking-related heart problems," says Dr Gnanadev. Passive smoking is equally dangerous. Dr Shetty recalls a 25-year-old non-smoker who had a heart attack because his roommates smoked heavily. Recreational drugs also contribute. "Cannabis, marijuana, cocaine — all can trigger heart attacks, sometimes more aggressively than cigarettes," warns Dr Shetty. Dr Amith cites a woman in her 20s who died of a heart attack after vaping.

Experts also cite less-discussed triggers such as connective tissue disorders, high haemoglobin, inflammatory conditions, and oral contraceptive use in young women.

Doctors are reporting an increase in stress-induced heart attacks.

CITY MIX

Forgotten stories of women's cricket

Indian women's cricket will be the focus of a panel discussion at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, on September 26, from 6.30 pm. Writer and former cricketer Ananya Upendran, sportswriter and women's sport advocate Karunya Keshav, and author-journalist Aayush Puthran will be in conversation at the event, titled 'Played and Missed'. The panel will trace the journey from the forgotten days when Women's World Cup matches in India drew empty stands to the present, as the country prepares to co-host the Women's ODI World Cup. Details on bangaloreinternationalcentre.org.

Free hearing aid distribution

Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing, along with ALIMCO Bengaluru, is organising a free hearing aid distribution camp for the underprivileged at its premises in Hebbal on October 3, from 10 am to 5 pm. Registration is open. For details, call 96633 88623.

City foundation launches theatre initiative for underprivileged

TEAM METROLIFE

ANSR Foundation has launched an initiative for adolescents from underprivileged communities. Called Namma Dhwani (Our Voice), the initiative aims to use theatre and art to spark meaningful conversations.

The foundation is collaborating with Aravani Art Society to stage 30 performances across government, aided, community, and low-cost private schools in and around Bengaluru. "Each performance will be followed by Q&A sessions, so students can process what they've just seen and share their own thoughts," Caroline Fernandez, managing director of ANSR Foundation, tells *Metrolife*.

"Art and theatre can touch people in ways that lectures or textbooks cannot. We turned to this medium because it allows difficult conversations — around discrimination, substance use, or crime — to unfold in a relatable, human way," she adds. The plays are performed by

The initiative aims to spark meaningful conversations among adolescents.

citizens from underprivileged communities. "This brings authenticity to the stage. Their stories and emotions resonate with young audiences, opening up a safe space for reflection and dialogue," Caroline says.

The foundation's employees and Ride For Cause, a non-profit, will paint murals at schools and community spaces. Children attending the performances will receive a preventive health and art kit, with essentials like toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, crayons, watercolours and scrapbooks. ANSR Foundation is the CSR project of ANSR Global Corporation Private Limited.

EVENTS

Veena recital

Revathi Kamath will present a veena concert as part of the 'Happy Dasara Festival 2025' on September 29, 4.30 pm, at S V N Rao Memorial Hall, Kanakapura Road. Call 86182 44821.

Play on womanhood

'Orange Candy', a Hindi play exploring the complexities of IVF, womanhood, and motherhood, will premiere on September 27, 4.30 pm and 7.30 pm, at Alliance Française, Vasanth Nagar. It is directed by Bengaluru-based Ronak Sharma. Tickets online.

LGBTQ event

Alternative Law Forum is organising 'Little Communities of Love' on September 27, 6 pm, at their premises on Infantry Road. The gathering will celebrate seven years of the groundbreaking judgment that decriminalised homosexuality. Entry free.

Garba-dandiya nights keep it traditional this Navratri

'Navratri Utsav' at Gayatri Vihar, Palace Grounds, saw over 1,000 attendees on Wednesday.

Live orchestras feature musicians from Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, besides Bengaluru

TEAM METROLIFE

Traditional songs and decor are the focus of garba-dandiya events across popular Bengaluru venues this Navratri. Event management professional Nimesh Chagg notes that in the recent past, Bollywood hits, deejays, and neon-themed parties had started overshadowing the traditional celebration.

The 101st edition of 'Sri Bangalore Vaishnav Samaj Navratri Utsav Mandal' is underway at Palace Grounds (Gate No 5) until October 2. It begins at 8.30 pm. "We have invited the Tahukaar Bits orchestra from Gujarat. They will perform Gujarati songs," says core committee member Sunil G Patel. To manage the crowds, 25 bodyguards and 60 volunteers are on duty. In the dance area, photography is banned for privacy, and footwear is not allowed to avoid injuries. They have also scheduled competitions for participants. *Call 98450 40810.*

At Gayatri Vihar, Palace Grounds, Shri Raghuvanshi Charitable Trust is hosting 'Navratri Utsav' until October 1. It begins at 7.30 pm daily. Unnati, a group comprising musicians from Mumbai and Gujarat, will belt out traditional songs like 'Aadhya shakti tamne bahucharan' and 'Mara sonano ghadulo re', with occasional Hindi crowd-pleasers like 'Dholida'. About 15 volunteers will lead and guide people on the dance floor, says Prateek Thakker from the organising team. On one of the nights, LED diyas will be distributed to all attendees and the lights will be turned off during aarti to create a "visual spectacle". *Details on @srct_navratriutsav on Instagram.*

Dhol player Ramsingh from Gujarat and banjo artiste Mahesh from Rajasthan will perform with city-based musicians at 'Navaratri Utsav', which Shree Indiranagar Gujarati Association is hosting until October 1. The event on until October 1, at MLR Convention Centre, Whitefield, begins at 8 pm daily. Besides garba and dandiya, a round of sanedo and heech will be held. Female members of the association have designed a peacock-themed backdrop for the puja mantap. "All proceeds from ticket sales will support animal welfare initiatives," says committee member Praful Maun. *Visit @sigablr on Instagram.*

Ekta Shah will perform old-school garba songs at 'Oh My Garba', being held at Chamara Vajra, Palace Grounds, until September 27. The community dance will begin at 7 pm daily. The decor features embroidered tapestries inspired by the Kutchi-Rabari tradition. *Details on @ohmygarba on Instagram.*

Though music at 'Maha Dandiya Utsav' will be led by seven DJs, they will spin traditional songs. Last year's setlist featured fusion numbers. The event is slated for September 26, 27 and 28, and October 1, at Jayamahal Palace, and will start at 4 pm daily. *Details on @fusenetworx on Instagram.*

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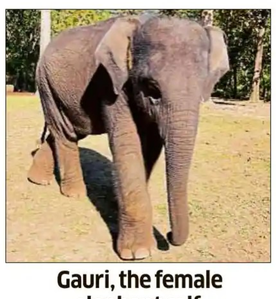


Gauri, the female elephant calf.

Female jumbo calf dies at KTR, activists cry 'negligence'

HUBBALLI, DHNS: A three-year-old captive-bred female elephant calf (Gauri) died at the Pansoli range of Kali Tiger Reserve (KTR) in Uttara Kannada district on Thursday.

While wildlife activists claim that Gauri died due to negligence by the forest department, officials said it died of multiple issues, including liver dysfunction.

A postmortem report, which is expected in another week, will give a clear picture of the reason for the elephant's death.

KTR field director Nilesh Shinde told *DH* that the elephant was not keeping well for the past one month.

"The elephant was suffering from skin pealing, tongue swelling and liver dysfunction. Multiple blood and other medical tests were conducted on the elephant. Help was sought from experts in various fields and the elephant was monitored round the clock," he said.

However, wildlife activists say that the elephant was not looked after by trained mahouts and the food provided to it was not as per the recommendation of doctors.

"The elephant had become completely weak in the last one month. The calf, which was running high temperature, was left to drench for three days in rain while being chained to a tree in the wild. This could have resulted in deterioration of its condition," said an activist.

Shinde, however, rejected these allegations and said that they had day-to-day medical reports of the elephant and that they made every effort to provide her the best treatment.

M K Ganapathi case: Cabinet rejects panel recommendation

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Cabinet on Thursday rejected Justice K N Keshavanarayana Commission's recommendations on initiating action against officers in connection with the 2016 suicide of Deputy Superintendent of Police M K Ganapathi.

In July 2016, Ganapathi died by suicide after accusing then home minister K J George, IPS officers AM Prasad and Pranab Mohanty for his situation. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who was at the helm then, too, formed the one-man inquiry commission, which gave its report in February 2018.

The commission exonerated George, Prasad and Mohanty. However, it recommended action against a few officials citing lapses during investigation.

To study the commission's report, the government had appointed retired DGP M K Srivastava. He gave his report in May 2025. Srivastava opined that there was no need for action against officials given that the CBI's closure report (it gave a clean chit to George, Prasad and Mohanty) had been upheld by the Karnataka High Court and the Supreme Court.

MLC polls: 'Apply for tickets by paying Rs 1L'

▸ **BENGALURU, DHNS:** Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar on Thursday invited applications from aspirants who want to contest the teachers' and graduates' constituency elections to the Legislative Council scheduled next year. He asked ticket aspirants to submit their applications along with a demand draft of Rs 1 lakh before November 1, 2025.

Age mismatch leads to huge pension pilferage suspicion

Around 26 lakh pensioners may be 'ineligible'

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka might have lost thousands of crores over several years as persons falsely claimed they were 60 years of age to receive social security pensions meant for senior citizens, authorities have found during an internal audit.

There are about 26 lakh beneficiaries of the old age pension whose age, as per their Aadhaar, are below 60 years, making them ineligible for the benefit, according to Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

"They've taken the benefit for the last 5-8 years. Of the 26 lakh, even if 10 lakh are truly ineligible, then we're looking at Rs 1,000-1,500 crore of money that has been paid to them every year," Gowda told *DH*.

Gowda held a meeting with senior officials, including his principal secretary Munish Moudgil, on tackling this problem. "Wilful fraud on the public exchequer can't be pardoned," the minister said.

The total number of beneficiaries under various state-funded pension schemes is 82.57 lakh on whom the government spends Rs 10,500 crore annually.

Age-related discrepancies have been found with beneficiaries of the old age pension scheme (they get Rs 400-1,000 per month by the state government) and Sandhya Suraksha (Rs 1,000 for persons aged above 65).

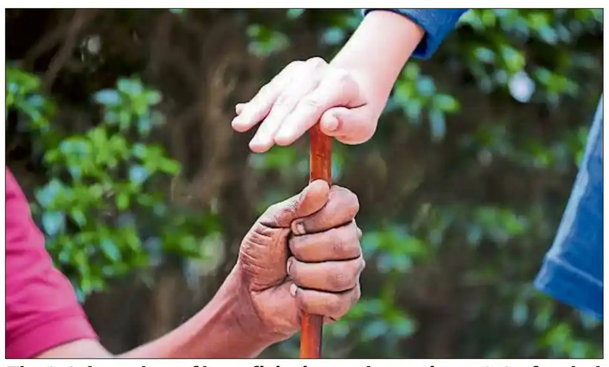
Gowda said it took his department nearly a year to obtain actionable data. "We matched our pensions database with Aadhaar. That's how this age mismatch came up," Gowda said. "We found that the Aadhaar age of many beneficiaries is significantly lower than 60 years. The difference is 5-15 years. They've declared their age in Aadhaar as 45, but are claiming to be 60+ and receiving pensions," he said.

The data will be given to village administrative officers (VAO) to crosscheck on the ground in a traceable manner, the minister said.

According to sources, beneficiaries will be asked to produce their birth or marriage certificate. If these documents are not available, beneficiaries will be asked for the birth or school admission certificate of their children. "Say, if the child is 10 years old, it's unlikely that the beneficiary will be 60," a source said.

The audit also found discrepancies involving monthly pensions for disabled beneficiaries (Rs 800-2,000). "We have cases where beneficiaries, who look physically fit, have claimed 75% disability based on certificates by doctors. Such cases are there in Raichur, Vijayapura and Belagavi," an official said.

Sources said ground-level officials may be hand-in-glove with beneficiaries for approving pension applications.



The total number of beneficiaries under various state-funded pension schemes is 82.57 lakh on whom the government spends Rs 10,500 crore annually. DH FILE PHOTO

Caste survey: Govt warns of action against lax staff

1.75L teachers roped in for enumeration; Minister admits to anomalies

BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid the concerns about the sluggish pace of the socio-economic & educational survey (caste census), the Cabinet has warned the government employees, who are enlisted for the survey, of disciplinary action if failed to carry out the enumeration process assigned to them.

The issue was discussed in the Cabinet meeting held on Thursday and it was decided to initiate disciplinary action against the enumerators who are absent for the survey work.

Teachers are roped in for enumeration in the rest of the state while the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes - which is conducting the survey - will carry out the exercise in the GBA limits with help of public servants, along with teachers.

The Cabinet has empowered the Chief Commissioner of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) in Bengaluru region to initiate action against the absentees as per the provisions of the Karnataka Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 2021 and Karnataka Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1957.

Speaking to reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said, "It has been decided to take disciplinary action against the government officials and staff who have been deputed for the Social and Educational Survey that is underway, if they are not performing or attending their duty, as per the order. The authority to take action in the Greater Bengaluru Authority area has been given to the GBA commissioner."

When asked about the competent authority to initiate action in the rest of Karnataka, he said, "The orders will percolate to districts as well. The chief minister is holding a meeting with deputy commissioners and CEOs of all Zilla Panchayats on Friday through video conferencing, and he will give the necessary directions at the meeting."

Patil, however, accepted that there were technical glitches in the first two days. "Yes it's true that the server problem hampered the process in the beginning. It has improved now," the minister said.

He said disciplinary action against errant officials will be in accordance with the service rules.

It can be recalled that the survey began at a sluggish pace due to protests by teachers in some parts of the state including Udupi, Belagavi and Uttara Kannada, and technical issues. The state government has deployed around 1.75 lakh teachers for the survey work and decided to rope in anganwadi workers, if needed.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar stated that there are no confusions regarding the survey. "We request organisations and community leaders to create awareness and enter details in the survey to avoid injustice to our future generations," he said.

"If you take any work, there will be delay in the beginning and it will speed up in later stages. The government will decide on extending the survey," Shivakumar added.

Cong's OBC leaders resolve to back CM, support caste census

BENGALURU, DHNS

Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology Minister N S Boseraju has announced that Congress leaders from the other backward classes (OBCs) — including ministers, MLAs, and MLCs — have unanimously resolved to support Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and fully back the ongoing caste census.

They held a closed-door meeting in the city on Thursday. It gains political importance amid strong opposition from BJP and JD(S) and stiff resistance from dominant communities like Brahmins, Vokkaligas and Lingayats.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Boseraju said all OBC leaders extended unanimous support to the CM and called for active participation from backward classes to ensure the success of the survey.

Asserting that the survey was a constitutional step necessary for the social, economic and political upliftment of OBC communities, he argued that data was crucial to access educational opportunities and political representation.

Former chief minister M Veerappa Moily termed the meeting "historic".

Moily warned against opposing the exercise, reminding that similar resistance was seen during the time of the Kelkar and Mandal commissions. Despite opposition, the Mandal commission recommendations were implemented, providing reservation in central government jobs for OBCs. He praised Siddaramaiah's commitment to equality and noted that fresh opposition had emerged, even though the new survey had been instituted following objections to the Kantharaj commission.

He highlighted that district-level awareness campaigns were underway and leaders had resolved to meet the commission as a united delegation. Backward class ministers will visit districts to spread awareness, the former CM said.

Senior Congress leader B K Hariprasad said the survey was promised in the party's manifesto and was part of its commitment. He criticised those opposing Ahinda and reservation policies. Hariprasad underlined the need for data on 197 backward castes to understand their level of deprivation.

The enumerators deputed for socio-economic and educational survey air their grievances to the tahsildar in Mundgod of Uttara Kannada district on Thursday.

Enumerators stage protest; demand redress of tech glitches

BENGALURU, DHNS

Technical glitches continued to hamper the socio-economic and educational survey in several parts of the state on the fourth day.

The exercise has not commenced in Mysuru at all. Teachers deputed for the survey said, "Technical issues have been a hindrance since the very first day. Only a handful of families have been enumerated in some taluks," they said.

The teachers deputed for the survey staged a protest in Mundgod of Uttara Kannada district, demanding the authorities to address the technical glitches.

They alleged that they could upload data pertaining to 4-5 households even if they conduct survey for the whole day.

The enumerates complained that they are spending up to three hours in a household and at the last moment the data is lost due to server issues. They submitted a memorandum to the tahsildar.

Meanwhile, the block education officer at Basavakalayan in Bidar district has issued show-cause notices to two enumerates who climbed tank and tree to get network for uploading survey data. They have been asked to furnish their written explanation in three days.

In a border village in Vijayapura district, the enumerators sat on house roofs for uploading the data.

Even the family members had to climb the roofs to inform the OTP they get during the survey. Network issue has been dogging the survey here. The enumerators alleged that they were unable to instal the apps on their mobile phones.

Govt job aspirants' protest brings Dharwad to a standstill

Government job aspirants stage a massive protest at the Jubilee Circle in Dharwad on Thursday, criticising government for the prolonged delay in holding recruitments. DH PHOTO

DHARWAD, DHNS

A massive protest by graduate students aspiring for government jobs brought normal life to a grinding halt in Dharwad on Thursday.

The city took nearly four hours to return to normalcy as major roads were choked with traffic snarls. More than 5,000 students, mostly from competitive exam coaching centres, took to the streets, raising slogans against the government for failing to fill long-pending vacancies in various departments.

The protest rally began at Srinagar Circle, passed through College Road, and culminated at Jubilee Circle. Protesters blocked vehicular movement, allowing only ambulances to pass. After staging a sit-in at Jubilee Circle that brought the city to a standstill, the agitators marched to the deputy commissioner's office and submitted a memorandum. The protest was led by All Karnataka State Students' Association state president, Kant Kumar.

The protesters highlighted that lakhs of students and coaching centres have been suffering due to prolonged delays in recruitment. They noted that the recruitment process for constable and PSI posts has been stalled for four to five years, while FDA and SDA posts have remained vacant for seven to eight years. Many aspirants have now crossed the upper age limit.

The students demanded that the government provide a minimum five-year age relaxation and immediately initiate recruitment. They also urged authorities to review and cancel the KAS notification, citing serious errors in its Kannada translation.

Police Commissioner N Shashikumar visited the protest site and tried to pacify the students. However, the protesters were in no mood to relent and later marched to the DC office to press their demands.

MoD, HAL ink Rs 62,000 cr...

HAL deal, From Page 1

Taken together, the HAL is to supply 180 single-engine indigenous fighter jets to the Indian Air Force, which is struggling with a depleting squadron level.

"The supply of these aircraft by HAL would enhance the operational capability of the IAF to continue their unhindered operations and strengthen defence preparedness of the country," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in a social media post.

"This contract reflects the trust and confidence of the government and the armed forces in the indigenously developed aircraft Tejas, which will be the mainstay of the IAF in the years to come," he said.

Ironically, the deal with HAL was inked a day before the IAF's last two squadrons of MiG-21 will retire from service after six decades of flying.

The integration of advanced indigenous systems such as the UTTAM active electronically scanned array (AESA) radar, DRDO's Swayam Raksha Kavach (a multi-layer protection suit), and control surface actuators will make the aircraft far more capable.

"The LCA Mk1A is the most advanced variant of the indigenous fighter aircraft and will serve as a potent platform to meet the operational requirements of the IAF," a defence ministry official said.

Though the delivery of aircraft from the 2021 contract was to start in 2024, the aviation company is yet to supply a single fighter to the IAF, primarily due to a delay by the US aviation major General Electric to supply the F-404 engines. With GE supplying three engines so far — and a fourth one is expected within days — the first two Tejas LCA Mk-1A are to be handed over to the IAF shortly after weapon trials.

Now, OC relief likely for...

OC, From Page 1

Any exemption will kick in from May 15, 2025 when the GBG Act came into force and "not prior to that", Shetty specified.

According to sources, the Cabinet deferred a decision on this. However, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's office said the Cabinet decided to exempt residential buildings on plots above 1,200 sq ft from obtaining OCs.

R Rajagopalan, convener of the BLR Coalition, told *DH* earlier that exempting OCs was fraught with risk. "Exempting occupancy certificates will remove the only check ensuring buildings are compliant and safe for occupation. Public safety cannot be overstated," he said.

On average, municipal authorities issue about 4,000 new building plan approvals every year for plots not exceeding 1,200 sq ft.

Caste census: No HC stay...

Caste census, From Page 1

The above information would necessarily have to be communicated to all participants at the outset by the enumerators before calling upon them to answer any queries," the bench said, adding that If someone declined to participate in the survey, the enumerators would take no further steps to pressurise them to divulge information.

"The commission shall file an affidavit within one working day clearly disclosing the steps taken ensuring that the data collected is kept confidential and will not be accessed by any person other than the commission," it said.

The court was hearing the PILs by Rajya Vokkaliga Sangha, members of Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Lingayata Mahasabha and others challenging the survey.

The petitioners argued that the state government has no mandate to conduct a caste-based survey to review social and economic conditions. They sought an interim stay on the enumeration process.

On the other hand, the state government contended that the 105th amendment to the Constitution has restored the power of state governments and Union Territories to identify and list the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs).

No caste in our faith: Archbishop

BENGALURU: There is no caste in the Christian faith, Bengaluru Archbishop Peter Machado has said, and called for a society that would embrace "true equality" and that caste-based labels should "lose their hold".

Machado said this amidst a raging debate on caste nomenclatures such as Brahmana Christian, Vokkaliga Christian, Lingayat Christian, Madiga Christian and so on in the backdrop of the Social & Educational Survey that is underway.

"Christianity teaches that all are equal before God. Caste distinctions are not part of our faith," Machado told *DH*. "However, we cannot deny that socially, historical identities continue to be used in public life and in government records. Where the survey requires it, people may state their background truthfully, but we must always remember that in the eyes of our faith, there is no caste—only dignity and equality of every person," Machado said.

The Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, which is conducting the survey, has 'masked' contentious Christian nomenclatures comprising Hindu caste names following uproar and a campaign by the BJP.

Machado called upon Christians to participate in the survey "honestly and responsibly" while providing "accurate" information on their social and educational background. "We have guided our people to state their religion clearly as 'Christian' and, wherever asked, to indicate their community or subgroup truthfully," Machado said.

The previous 2015 survey counted 9.47 lakh Christians in Karnataka, divided into 57 sub-castes. The "Adi Dravida Christians" formed the largest sub-caste under Christianity.

"The numbers from the past survey did not reflect the reality as we experience it. Many felt undercounted, and that raises legitimate concerns," Machado said.

"My appeal to the authorities is that this survey be conducted with thoroughness, professionalism and fairness," he said.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at few places over South Interior and at many places over Coastal Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka
Forecast Sept 26: Rainfall to occur at some places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	27.4	19	TR
Bidar	30	21	00
Vijayapura	29	19.5	5.2
Dharwad	27.2	NA	00
Haveri	25.8	20.6	00
Kalaburagi	30.8	22.5	00
Raichur	30.4	21	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	29.6	24.4	22.1
Karwar	31	23.8	17.4
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	30.7	22.6	05

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	10
Bengaluru	26.2	20.4	2.8
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	29.7	20.7	6.5
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	25.9	20.2	00
Davangere	27	19	00
Hassan	27.6	19.9	00
Mysuru	30	19.2	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	27.2	19.4	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	35.4	24.6	00
Kolkata	33.6	26.8	00
Mumbai	31.5	24.6	3.9
Chennai	34.4	27	00
Pune	29.6	19.6	00
Hyderabad	29.8	22.8	00
Th'puram	32.6	23.6	42

Law on gig workers will protect bike taxi riders too: Govt to HC

'Despite court's clear direction, cab operators operate bike taxis'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The government informed the high court on Thursday that the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025, introduced in August, would protect the interests of all gig workers, including those working for platforms like Uber, Ola, Zepto.

Advocate General (AG) Shashikiran Shetty said this before a division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and C M Joshi, which is hearing a batch of writ appeals pertaining to bike taxis.

The appellants have challenged a single-bench order that ruled that unless the government notifies relevant guidelines under section 93 of the Motor Vehicles Act and the Rules, bike taxi services cannot operate. The bench added that measures are always open to the government to frame such guidelines.

In August, the bench gave the government time to take a conscious decision as to whether there should be a policy on bike taxis. It had posed questions as to whether it was a conscious decision of the state to prohibit bike taxis in the absence of a policy. The bench, while granting time, had orally observed, "Give it a serious thought. There are lives at stake here."

Appearing on behalf of the state on Thursday, the AG said that the Gig Workers Act would take care of individual bike riders. He submitted that despite the court's clear direction, cab operators continue to operate bike taxis and should not be heard in the matter.

At this stage, the bench orally remarked, "We gave you one month's time to come up with some policy. Nothing is done and you have come up with gig workers. We will hear the case then."

Senior advocate Dhyan Chinnappa, appearing for some of the bike taxi owners, submitted that the aggregators only provide their services free of cost to help individual bike riders connect with customers. He said that unlike autos, individual bike taxi drivers do not have auto stands and are only provided a platform.

New law for power, sanitary connections to buildings sans plan sanction

Cabinet decides on legislative route to bypass SC order

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka will introduce new legislation to provide electricity connections to buildings that were constructed without obtaining sanctioned plans both in urban and rural areas.

The law is aimed at bypassing the Supreme Court judgment that made Occupancy Certificates (OC) mandatory for essential services such as sanitary and electricity connections.

The decision on the new legislation was taken at a state Cabinet meeting held on September 18 but remained under the wraps for long.

In his note, Energy Department Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta proposed providing one-time relaxation to plots and existing buildings of all sizes in availing of electricity connections purely based on ownership records. The note pointed out that lakhs of property owners were affected because of the court judgment passed in December 2024.

After discussions, the Cabinet decided to take the legislative route to bypass the landmark judgment. The special legislation is expected to provide clarity on the extent of plots and built-up areas that will benefit from the move.

The government had exempted buildings which are constructed or will be constructed on up to 1,200 square feet of land from applying for OCs. This will help property owners avail of water, electricity and sanitary connections even if the buildings have been constructed without following the norms.

DH has learnt that about 35,000 applicants are awaiting electricity connections and about 10,000 water connections in Bengaluru alone.

DH has learnt that about 35,000 applicants are awaiting electricity connections and about 10,000 water connections in Bengaluru alone. DH FILE PHOTO

In addition, the Cabinet also decided to provide relief to building owners who did not follow rules and regulations. It has directed the departments concerned to frame revised rules and regulations that can be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The government plans to collect fines and regularise unauthorised construction rampant in cities like Bengaluru.

Suhas Ananth Rajkumar, an advocate who is currently not practising the profession, noted that the Cabinet decisions "completely violate the Supreme Court orders.

"This seems like an attempt to quickly approve all electricity connections for existing applicants. The one-time relaxation is not allowed by the SC order. The government has also not mentioned a cut-off date for this one-time relaxation," he said.

Rajkumar further said the government was trying to bring back the Akrama Sakrama scheme for all electricity companies.

A Banashankari resident urged the government to reconsider the decisions, stating that the building violations are not just contributing to the decline of city's quality of life but are also creating a whole lot of other problems, including traffic congestion.

End govt control of Hindu temples: VHP petitions Guv

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) Karnataka Dakshin unit on Thursday formally submitted a detailed proposal to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot urging him to take steps to ensure that Hindu temples are administered by Hindus themselves.

The petition strongly emphasised that the only constitutionally valid path to equality before the law is to free all types of Hindu temples from government control. It stated, "Once freed, a new, universally acceptable system for temple administration is essential. The Karnataka Temple Scheme attached to this petition proposes to form temple administration committees through a democratic process involving direct and indirect elections."

In its submission, the VHP made clear that the proposal seeks to fulfil the longstanding demand of the majority of Hindu society—that Hindu temples should be managed by Hindus.

The organisation also appealed for the introduction and enforcement of relevant laws and regulations to facilitate the scheme's implementation in the state.

"The Governor's leadership can play a pivotal role in resolving this complex issue," the petition noted.

Highlighting the existing situation surrounding temple administration, the VHP cautioned that a prolonged state of uncertainty cannot be allowed to continue in the state. It underscored that establishing a new constitutionally valid system for the administration of Hindu temples is the urgent need of the hour.

The petition included the "Karnataka Temple Scheme", claiming that it was developed within a framework of direct and indirect democracy to ensure that temple administration remains fair, transparent, and broadly acceptable to the Hindu community.

Moreover, the VHP pointed out that their scheme was based on constitutional provisions—especially Article 14—the scheme also follows Articles 25 and 26, which protect religious freedom and give religious groups the right to manage their own matters, the petition stated.

Study panel to recognise Kannada film industry under industrial policy

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka government on Thursday formed a study committee to formulate a draft policy aimed at extending the facilities of the state's Industrial Policy to the film industry by officially recognising it as an industry.

The committee will have to conduct a detailed study of the policies followed by the union government and various states and discuss with experts from various fields of the Kannada film industry. An additional grant of Rs 3 lakh has been sanctioned to meet the expenditure related to the study.

The committee will be presided over by the commissioner of the Information and Public Relations Department. The members include: Mehboob Pasha, president of Sri Kanteerava Studio; Sadhu Kokila, president of Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy (KCA); film producers Sa Ra Govindu and Ramesh Reddy; film exhibitors K V Chandrasekhar (who owns Veeresh Cinema) and Rajaram (Mysuru); film director R Chandru, members of KCA, Vinnu Kumar S and D G Venkatesh, Director of Industries and Commerce and Joint Directors (Photography and Film Branch).

At present, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal recognise film industries in their respective states under the State's Industrial Policy.

The recognition of a film industry as an industry under the state's industrial policy brings tangible economic, financial and legal benefits, similar to other manufacturing or service sectors like IT, textiles and tourism.

Govt forms panel to establish film repository

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka government on Thursday formed a panel of technical experts to establish a film repository to preserve Kannada films.

The repository will be established at a cost of Rs 3 crore to preserve Kannada films that reflect social, historical and cultural values in digital and non-digital formats, according to a press statement released by the Department of Information and Public Relations.

A grant of Rs 25 lakh has been released to form a delegation of technical experts for conducting supplementary studies and gathering information through visits to Pune, Mumbai, Kerala and other places that already have a film archival cell.

The delegation is advised to assess the necessary infrastructure, equipment and other requirements for implementing the film repository. It will also prepare guidelines to collect films in both digital and non-digital formats.

The delegation will be headed by the Commissioner of Information and Public Relations Department. The members include Mehboob Pasha, Chairperson of Sri Kanteerava Studio Ltd; Sadhu Kokila, president of Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy (KCA); film producer Jayanna; film colourist Ramamurthy of Prasad Lab; and members of KCA, Savitri Majumdar, Chidananda Patel, also a senior journalist, and Nikhita Swamy S, Joint Director (Photography and Film Branch) and Registrar of KCA.

In 2017, the KCA had announced that it will restore and digitise about 1,500 Kannada films. The BDA had reportedly released Rs one crore to fund the restoration project. However, the funds were taken back when there was no progress. At the KCA office in Nandini Layout, an entire floor is dedicated to archiving and restoring films.

Postpone SIR until GBA polls, says state poll panel chief

BENGALURU, DHNS: State Election Commissioner (SEC) G S Sangreshi has asked Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar not to take up a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) until polls are conducted for the five municipal corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority.

In a letter to Kumar, Sangreshi said: "In case the proposed SIR is held in the next coming months (October, November and December) in Bengaluru city, by using manpower provided by the (state) government, it would be very difficult for the SEC to deploy the same manpower once again to prepare and finalise the voters list."

Sangreshi pointed out that the SEC had been empowered to prepare the electoral rolls for the GBA area. He also said that the Supreme Court had directed SEC to finalise electoral rolls for the new city corporations by November 1.

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF BHARAT
सत्यमेव जयते
GST Bachat Utsav
More Savings
More Happiness
Now Every Family Saves More
1500cc Car
Savings upto ₹70,000
1.5 Ton AC
Savings upto ₹2,800
Upto 349cc Bikes/Scooters
Savings upto ₹8,000
42" TV
Savings upto ₹3,500
Tractors
Savings upto ₹40,000
Three-wheelers
Savings upto ₹20,000
Life Insurance (on annual premium of ₹10,000)
Savings upto ₹1,800
Benefits of this Bachat Utsav will reach the poor, middle class, neo middle class, youth, farmers, women, shopkeepers, traders, and entrepreneurs alike. In this festive season, every household will experience increased savings and happiness.
- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister
GST
Better & Simpler
CBC 15502/13/0022/2526

'Power bills delay won't hit Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Amid concerns that delays in generating electricity bills due to the ongoing socio-economic and educational survey could impact the Gruha Jyothi scheme beneficiaries, Bescom has clarified that there will be no such impact.

In a statement, the power utility said meter readers were assigned two responsibilities - recording meter readings using probes and collecting household data for the state-wide survey. As a result, the electricity bill distribution timeline was extended from September 15 to September 25.

"During this period, some Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries may have received partial bills. Bescom has assured consumers that such bills will be recalculated based on their average monthly consumption, and revised bills will be issued accordingly," it added.

Vijayendra slams CM over 'costly' caste surveys, pothole-ridden roads

Vijayendra

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP state president B Y Vijayendra on Thursday alleged that the ruling Congress was resorting to distractions like the social and educational survey (also known as caste census) whenever it begins to falter and people start feeling the lack of development.

Speaking to reporters here, Vijayendra highlighted that the Kantharaju commission was formed and Rs 150 to Rs 160 crore was spent to conduct the caste survey, only for the report to be discarded like waste.

"Now, the same Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is planning to spend another Rs 500 to Rs 600 crore, only to create confusion in the state," he said. Citing the CM's claim that his Cabinet would decide on the Kantharaju report, the state BJP leader said, "It is clear that this government is intent on creating confusions".

He added that a similar approach was seen with the survey of Scheduled Castes conducted by the Justice Nagamohan Das commission.

Vijayendra charged the Congress with sowing the seeds of caste poison to break Hindu society.

Accusing the Congress of tarnishing Bengaluru's honour and reputation, Vijayendra criticised government's "failure" to address basic issues like pothole-filled roads.

Cabinet okays Rs 4,432-cr new Skill Development Policy

Karnataka envisions a stronger skilling ecosystem: Minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Cabinet on Thursday approved a new Karnataka State Skill Development Policy worth Rs 4,432 crore, which covers a 7-year period up to 2032.

The policy majorly focuses on framing a Karnataka Skill Index, lifelong learning, reskilling and upskilling to match rapid technological and industrial changes among youngsters aiming to position the state as a premier hub for skilled talent and drive its vision of becoming a $1 trillion economy by 2032.

The policy leverages digital technologies and Artificial Intelligence-driven tools for training, assessment, and career guidance through an unified digital portal. It also emphasizes international workforce mobility by facilitating global certifications, migration support, and specialized training.

Sharing details about the policy, Minister for Medical Education, Skill Development and Livelihood Sharan Prakash Patil said, "Though the department was established in 2017, there was no formal Skill Development Policy till now." The policy will be implemented immediately by issuing a government order, he added.

SHARAN PRAKASH PATIL
Minister for Medical Education, Skill Development and Livelihood

"Integration of vocational education into schools, colleges, and universities through credit-based programmes is one of the important highlights of the new policy.

"Integration of vocational education into schools, colleges, and universities through credit-based programmes is one of the important highlights of the new policy," he added.

"The absence of a policy framework meant that skilling efforts were often fragmented across multiple departments. With the growing demand for a skilled workforce to meet state, national and global needs, there was an urgent requirement to streamline and integrate initiatives under a common vision and strategy. The Karnataka Skill Development Policy 2025–2032 addresses this gap by aligning skilling with education, employment, and industry requirements, while also ensuring inclusivity, equity, and future readiness," the minister said.

The policy leverages digital technologies and artificial intelligence-driven tools for training, assessment, and career guidance through an unified digital portal.
DH FILE PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

Highlights of the policy

- Strong industry collaboration through apprenticeships, industry-led training, and ITI adoption.
- Special interventions for women, persons with disabilities, marginalized communities, the urban poor, and the informal workforce.
- Infrastructure upgrade, including modernization of ITIs, expansion of Government Tool Room & Training Centres, and setting up rural and urban skilling hubs.
- Robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework, with 5% of scheme budgets earmarked for M&E.
- Chief Minister's Kaushalya Karnataka Yojane 2.0 positioned as an umbrella scheme to unify all state skilling programmes (such as Kalike Jothege Kaushalya, Nanna Vrutti Nanna Ayke, ILC, IMC-K,R-PL, and special projects) under a life-cycle approach to skilling.
- Empower youth and marginalised communities by ensuring access to high quality, industry-aligned skilling, reskilling and upskilling opportunities
- Promote artisanal skills and informal sector skilling by recognising prior learning, modernising crafts and supporting entrepreneurship
- Chief Minister's Fellowship programme in partnership with renowned academic institutions to deploy one fellow per district to work closely with the DSDOs (District Skill Development Offices)
- Provision of Rs 1 crore state challenge fund every year to foster skill, health competition and innovation
- Establishing Skill lab in every district

Hygiene facilities at govt ITIs

Interestingly, the policy speaks about the hygiene facilities that need to be improved at the government ITIs by providing separate toilets for male and female students and staff.

"Regular checks will be conducted by DSDO-appointed members to ensure functionality and availability of separate washrooms, safe water, sanitation and hygiene-related issues," reads the policy.

Patil added that through the policy Karnataka envisions a stronger skilling ecosystem that caters to the current and the future workforce requirement.

"The government will introduce early interventions for school and college students with an aim to mainstream vocational training and build a wide range of capabilities that allows for greater adaptability and flexibility in today's dynamic labour market. The government will also collaborate with industry and support initiatives aimed at upskilling and reskilling the current workforce, and facilitate formal recognition of skills acquired informally to boost the transition to formal employment."

Govt okays adaptive traffic signals at 110 junctions in B'luru

BENGALURU DHNS

The Cabinet on Thursday has decided to implement adaptive traffic signals at 110 junctions in Bengaluru at an estimated cost of Rs 56.45 crore. The signalling system will enable traffic management will on automative mode.

The Cabinet also gave administrative approval to undertake the five-year operation and maintenance of the treated water pumping station located within the premises of the water treatment plant near GRP Main and Rajakaluve, including the tertiary treatment unit of 40 MLD capacity in the IT Park industrial area near Devanahalli, at an estimated cost of Rs 45 crore. It was decided that the funds for comprehensive operation and maintenance will be borne under the deposit contribution of the Industrial Areas Development Board.

Similarly, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board has received approval for a project to implement five-year comprehensive operation and maintenance of a 15-lakh liter sewage treatment plant at Elemallappachetti and a 5-lakh liter pumping station at Sadaramangala.

Additionally, administrative approval has been granted to undertake five-year comprehensive operation and maintenance of the 90-lakh liter Bellandur sewage treatment plant at an estimated cost of Rs 23.36 crore.

Administrative approval has been granted to purchase robotic medical equipment for the Institute of Gastroenterology Sciences and Organ Transplant, Bengaluru, at a cost of Rs 20 crore. Administrative and tender approval has been granted for a PPP-model project within the Greafer Bangalore Authority to collect and dispose of 1,750 metric tons of construction and demolition debris daily.

FIR against Sringeri MLA, wife, son

CHIKKAMAGALURU, DHNS: The Lokayukta police filed an FIR against Sringeri MLA T D Rajegowda, his wife and son, under Prevention of Corruption Act, on Thursday. The action came following a judgement by the special court for elected representatives.

Following a private complaint by one Dinesh H K of Koppa, the court on September 16 directed registration of an FIR. The complaint had also mentioned that MLA's family members have amassed disproportionate assets. The Lokayukta SP in his report in 2023 had stated that the allegations were baseless. Challenging the same, the complainant had approached the special court of elected representatives.

Siddu announces memorial for Bhyrappa in Mysuru

Fans make a beeline to pay tributes to writer

BENGALURU, DHNS

Thousands gathered, on Thursdsay, to pay their last respects to celebrated Kannada novelist S L Bhyrappa at Ravindra Kalakshetra on JC Road here, whose his mortal remains were kept for public viewing.

Among those present were his fans, admirers, political leaders and members of the film fraternity. The body will be sent to Mysuru, the city where the author worked and spent much of his life, where further arrangements for public viewing have been made before cremation on Friday.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah paid his last respects to the departed soul and told reporters that the Kannada literary world had become "very poor" with Bhyrappa's passing.

He announced that the government would take steps to build a memorial for Bhyrappa in Mysuru, the city he fondly called his *Karmasthala* (place of work) and where he spent most of his life.

"His novels have been translated into 40 languages, which is rare. He had acquired readers in various languages. He was a writer who wrote based on life experiences," the CM said.

The chief minister voiced a long-standing sentiment in literary circles, saying, "I wish he was given the Jnanpith award," and prayed for peace for his soul and strength to bear the loss for his family.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar promised to discuss the memorial's construction with the chief minister, advocating that Bhyrappa's memorial "should be built like the memorials for artists and writers".

He hailed the late novelist as a writer who "made an international name, upheld culture and guided society".

BJP state president B Y Vijayendra and former chief minister B S Yediyurappa were also among the dignitaries who had their last darshan of the writer, both strongly endorsing the call for a memorial to honour the literary icon.

The mournful gathering included people from the Kannada film and literary world. Kannada actors Srinath, Sridhar, Umashri and Dingri Nagaraj were seen paying their last respects, alongside literary figures like Chandrashekara Kambara, B R lakshman Rao, Purushottama Bilimale and Hampa Nagarajaiah.

Political leaders like Veerappa Moily, B C Patil, Bangalore South MP L S Tejasvi Surya and Tejaswini, wife of former union minister the late H N Ananth Kumar, were also present.

The novelist is survived by his wife Saraswathi, and sons Udayshankar and Ravishankar, who received condolences from all.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah offers condolences to the family members of celebrated novelist S L Bhyrappa at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru, where his mortal remains were kept for public viewing on Thursday.

Native village mourns its illustrious son

A pall of gloom descended on Santheshivara in Channarayapatna taluk of Hassan district, the native village of Bhyrappa. People mourned the loss of the writer, as if he was one of their family members.

Venugopal, Bhyrappa's cousin, said, "His cremation had to be conducted at Santheshivara as per his wish. But that could not be done. His ashes will be brought in urns and immersed in the lakes, which the writer helped to fill water with".

Bhyrappa's sister Kamala said, "He did his studies with great difficulty. Our mother, sister and younger brother died of plague. We stayed with our father at the temple. Later, our father Linganaiah too passed away. My brother then took up a job in Gujarat. But he did not forget his native village".

Members of various organisations offered floral tributes to a portrait of Bhyrappa kept in front of the police station.

The residents said work on the S L Bhyrappa Art and Culture Study Centre, being constructed at a cost of Rs 5 crore here, should be completed soon.

The centre was sanctioned when B S Yediyurappa was the CM and Rs 1 crore was released during Basavaraj Bommai's tenure as CM. The work has been stalled due to the delay in getting the remaining Rs 4 crore. It should be released fast, they said.

Bhima basin floods: Traffic on Vijayapura-Solapur highway remains suspended for second day

BENGALURU, DHNS

The flood situation in Bhima basin districts remained grim following heavy discharges from Maharashtra's Ujani and Sina dams. The overflowing Bhima, Sonna and Manjra rivers and submerged bridges have brought vehicular movement to a halt.

With swollen Sina river submerging highway between Vadakbal and Hattu villages, the busy Vijayapura-Solapur stretch of NH 52 (formerly NH 13) remained closed for traffic. Roads and farmlands at several villages in Indi taluk have been submerged.

Basavakalyan MLA Sharanu Salagar takes stock of crop damage standing in waist-high water at a tur field in Hulsoor town, Bidar district, on Thursday. The legislator has sought a crop loss compensation of Rs 25,000 per acre for the affected farmers.

Several villages in Almel taluk have been marooned. Crops on thousands of hectares have remained destroyed.

Locals rescued a biker being swept away in Doni river near Talikot of Vijayapura district. A search is on for the pillion rider.

With outflow from Sonna Barrage at over 3.4 lakh cusec, situation in Afzalpur taluk of Kalaburagi district has worsened. That in Hulsoor taluk of Bidar district is no different, where Manjra river is overflowing.

Darshan to court: Can't walk freely in jail, fungus on hands

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kannada film star Darshan Thoogudeepa, the prime accused in the Renukaswamy murder case, made an emotional appeal to a Bengaluru court on Thursday, alleging that the prison authorities have failed to provide him with basic amenities.

Darshan, who reportedly broke down during the proceedings, claimed that his health is deteriorating due to the poor living conditions inside the Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara.

As per his statement to the 57th City Civil and Sessions Court judge, Darshan said he was still being held in a quarantine cell and not allowed to walk in an open space. He stated that he is only permitted to walk in a narrow, sunless area, which has caused him to develop a skin allergy, which he described as "fungus on his hands".

Darshan

Darshan brought to the court's attention that his previous complaints were not addressed, despite a court order instructing the jail staff to provide him with a bed and a pillow. He alleged that the authorities have been non-compliant with the court's instructions, forcing him to bring the issue up for the "20th time."

Darshan's lawyer Sunil requested that he be allowed to walk in the jail premises. The court reportedly agreed, but Darshan maintains that the jail staff has not been following the instruction.

Darshan also filed a petition, requesting that his name be dropped from the murder case, asserting that he had no role in the crime. The judge has adjourned the case to October 9 and has instructed the prison chief superintendent to be present at the next hearing.

Healthcare must serve humanity, not corporate targets: Minister

BENGALURU, DHNS: Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Thursday emphasised on ethical practices in healthcare as profit-driven hospital businesses push families to poverty during an emergency.

He was speaking at the 'Ethics in Healthcare Summit 2025', organised by Happiest Health, a health and wellness knowledge enterprise. Rao said, "True healthcare responsibility lies in prevention, regulating food safety and ensuring quality treatment remains accessible to all. Healthcare must serve humanity, not corporate targets."

Ashok Soota, chairman of Happiest Health, said without ethics, healthcare becomes mechanical & corrupt, while unnecessary procedures flourish & patients suffer due to negligence.

A panel discussion on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare was held with the experts of healthcare. Soota said: "As AI evolves, we must ensure technology serves ethical care, not profit-driven medicine."

SC appoints committee to fix boundaries for leased areas on AP-Karnataka border

It will ascertain extent of illegal encroachment, illegal mining

NEW DEHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court recently set up a committee headed by former judge Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia to fix boundaries of leased areas and reserved forest areas on the borders of Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Karnataka, so as to ascertain extent of illegal encroachment, illegal mining & other unauthorized activities.

A bench of Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria agreed to a suggestion by senior advocate Sidharth Luthra on behalf of AP government. The court asked the panel to submit its report in 3 months.

Luthra placed on record a communication from commissioner & director of mines & geology of AP, of Sept 18.

"A perusal of the said communication reveals that after considering various orders passed by this court and note of amicus curiae of Aug 20, 2022, the state government has taken a decision to request this court to constitute a committee so as to fix boundaries of leased areas and reserved forest areas so as to ascertain extent of illegal encroachment, extent of illegal mining and other unauthorized activities," the bench said.

The respondents Obulapuram Mining Company and others opposed the submission.

They said what was agreed upon was only demarcation of lease hold areas. They said now the state government was attempting to go beyond what was agreed upon earlier. Karnataka was represented by Additional Advocate General Nishanth Patil and advocate D L Chidananda.

"We do not propose to go into that controversy between the state and respondents. When the matter will be heard on merits, the said contentions can be raised and the same will be considered on its own merit. However, at the moment, we are inclined to accept the suggestion of the petitioner and therefore, we appoint a committee," the bench said.

The committee will also comprise a member of the central empowered committee, secretary, department of industries and commerce (mines), government of AP or his nominee, secretary from department of environment, forest, science and technology, or his nominee, a nominee of the union ministry of environment, forest and climate change and secretary, department of revenue of AP or his nominee.

The court said the committee, while finalising its report, would hear all concerned parties, including respondents.

Grassroots revamp: Cong to appoint booth, mandal & block presidents

Process to begin where party has already chosen new district chiefs

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Congress is initiating a second round of organisational revamp at the grassroots level by appointing new presidents to its block, mandal, and booth-level committees in states where it has chosen new district presidents as part of the "Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan".

The programme is expected to be rolled out first in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Haryana, where new presidents have been chosen for 144 organisational districts so far this year.

The process for appointing district presidents is almost complete in Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttarakhand, and Punjab, while it has started in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana. Poll-bound states will get a relaxation on the timeline for completing the process.

As part of the process, AICC observers fan out in districts for a consultation to help the central leadership finalise district presidents.

It has been started or completed in 10 states covering 274 organisational districts, and is expected to cover the entire country by the year-end.

So far, the party said, AICC observers have cumulatively spent 1,912 days in the field for the consultation process.

Under the new organisational revamp, district presidents have been given more powers. Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal said the purpose of the revamp was to build a "performing, stronger, and accountable" organisation at the booth, mandal, and block levels.

"Wherever we have completed appointing district presidents, we are going to take up the selection of presidents for block, mandal, and booth presidents as well as appointment of Booth Level Agent-1 (BLA-1) and Booth Level Agent-2 (BLA-2)," he said.

The revamp was rolled out after a Congress Working Committee meeting in Belagavi last December announced that 2025 would be the year of the "Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan".

With the party focusing on the social-justice plank, it is now taking extra care to maintain social balance by providing adequate representation for Dalits, tribals, OBCs, and minorities.

The newly-appointed district presidents are being given intensive training in organisational discipline, booth management, digital tools, fundraising, and issue-based mobilisation.

A system of monthly activity calendars has been introduced with a review system to ensure that the district units function with "measurable activities and public visibility".

The district presidents' performance will reportedly be assessed on a variety of parameters, including fundraising capabilities, membership promotion, election management, social media impact, and responsiveness to cadre and the people.

AI crash: Man says sleuths insinuated pilot son cut fuel

NEW DELHI, REUTERS: The father of the crashed Air India flight's captain said officials from India's accident investigation bureau visited him last month and implied his son cut the fuel to the plane's engines after takeoff, correspondence obtained by Reuters showed.

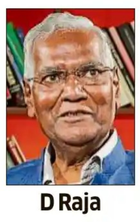
Pushkar Raj Sabharwal (91) emailed the Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) last week to say that Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) officials visited him at home on August 30 "under the pretext of offering condolences", and implied his son, Captain Sumeet Sabharwal, was the one who moved the fuel switches.

"During this interaction ... they went beyond their mandate — speaking in innuendos and insinuating, on the basis of selective CVR (cockpit voice recorder) interpretation and a so-called 'layered voice analysis', that my son moved the fuel control switches from RUN to CUTOFF after take-off," said the September 17 email.

The day before the AAIB visit, he wrote to the Union Civil Aviation Ministry, in a letter dated August 29, to request that the Central government open an additional investigation into the deadly crash, criticising what he said were investigators' "selective" releases of information, which had led to speculation about his son's actions.

D Raja to continue as CPI gen secy; age limit rule relaxed

NEW DELHI, DHNS: D Raja was on Thursday elected General Secretary of CPI for the third time, as the party's triennial congress relaxed the age norms for him to continue in the post even as the Kerala unit fought against it till the last minute.


D Raja

The continuation of the first Dalit General Secretary of a Left party comes even as there was discussion at the Party Congress in Chandigarh over elevating Amarjeet Kaur, who could have become the first woman chief of a Left party, or Binoy Vishwam, a relatively younger face. There was also some chatter about appointing a deputy general secretary, but no such decision was taken.

The task is cut out for Raja in his new term, as he has faced criticism over not being able to rejuvenate the CPI during his helm.

EC reverses 2019 order on postal ballot counting

EVM penultimate round to begin only after postal ballots

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Streamlining the process of counting postal ballots, the Election Commission (EC) on Thursday reversed its 2019 order and said the penultimate round of EVM/VVPAT counting will now be taken up only after the counting of postal ballots is completed.

The 2019 order had mandated that the penultimate round of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) counting "would not be stopped" until the completion of postal ballot counting and that EVM counting could continue irrespective of the stage of postal ballot counting.

According to the Handbook for Counting Agents 2023, EVM counting can proceed irrespective of the stage of postal ballot counting, and once EVM counting is completed, the VVPAT slips counting can start as per the prescribed procedure.

The EC's latest decision comes after long-standing demands from Opposition parties that the poll body return to the earlier practice of completing the counting of postal ballots before concluding EVM counting.

Ahead of the counting of votes for the Lok Sabha elections, the I.N.D.I.A bloc had also demanded that postal ballots be counted first and only then should EVM counting begin.

Typically, the counting of postal ballots starts at 8 a.m. and EVM counting at 8:30 a.m. The EC had earlier said EVM counting could theoretically go on irrespective of the stage of postal ballot counting, and the possibility of it being completed before postal ballot counting could not be ruled out, as per earlier guidelines.

"Although counting of postal ballots generally gets completed before counting of EVMs, in order to ensure uniformity and utmost clarity in the counting process, the Commission has decided that, henceforth, the penultimate (second-last) round of EVM/VVPAT counting shall be taken up only after the counting of Postal Ballot Papers is completed, at the counting centre where postal ballot counting is being done," an EC statement said.

In letters to Chief Electoral Officers in states and union territories, the EC clarified that in Parliamentary constituencies where counting of votes takes place at multiple centres, the penultimate round of EVM/VVPAT counting need not be stopped at all centres. In such cases, only the centre where postal ballots are counted must halt the penultimate round of EVM counting.

Lalu's triple test: Polls, graft & 'pari-war'

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Lalu Prasad is fighting three battles at a time.

First, a legal battle, where a judgment is expected next month in the IRCTC scam case, in which the RJD leader has been charged with graft during his tenure as railway minister in the UPA-I regime.

Second, a political battle, where he is pulling out all the stops to wrest Bihar from the NDA and help his son Tejashwi Yadav ascend to the chief minister's chair in November.

Third, and more dramatic, is the war within his own 'parivar'. His daughter Rohini Acharya has turned rebel, unfollowing Lalu, her brothers Tejashwi and Tej Pratap Yadav, and sister Misa Bharti (a Lok Sabha MP), following a family dispute over Tejashwi's confidant Sanjay Yadav, who is also a Rajya Sabha member.

Lalu Prasad

Rohini Acharya

It is believed that Rohini wanted to contest the upcoming Assembly elections but was given the cold shoulder by Tejashwi, who, she feels, acted on the advice of his confidant Sanjay and rejected the suggestion of her entering the fray. Lalu is also believed to have sided with his son and reprimanded his daughter, prompting her to unfollow all her family members on social media.

"...If anyone can prove that I have ever made any request to anyone for myself or someone else, and that the claim I donated my kidney to my respected father is a lie, I will withdraw from political and public life," she wrote on X, expressing strong displeasure over the goings-on within the family.

Rohini, who holds an MBBS degree but chose to stay in Singapore as a homemaker with her husband, was in the news when she contested the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from Saran, a seat Lalu had represented four times since 1977. However, she lost to BJP's Rajiv Pratap Rudy and had been lying low until recently, when she joined Rahul Gandhi's Voters' Adhikar Yatra last month.

In 2022, Rohini donated a kidney to Lalu, giving the RJD chief a new lease of life.

However, her relationship within the family grew strained earlier this month when she publicly slammed Sanjay Yadav for occupying the front seat in Lalu's rath (chariot), which was reportedly reserved for Lalu himself.

Rohini denied having any political ambition, sharing an old photo of herself en route to the Singapore hospital where she donated a kidney to Lalu. "Those who carry their lives in their palms are built for sacrifice. Fearlessness and self-respect flow in their blood," she wrote on X.

She added that she had fulfilled her duty as a daughter and sister, and would continue to do so. "I have no craving for position. For me, self-respect is paramount."

73-yr-old woman deported to India after 33 yrs in US

PTI: A 73-year-old "undocumented" Sikh woman, who lived in the US for more than 30 years, was detained and deported to India by immigration authorities in California earlier this week without being given the chance to even say goodbye to her relatives, her advocate said.

In a social media post on Wednesday, Deepak Ahluwalia, the advocate, said, "Bibi ji (Harjit Kaur) is on her way back to Punjab. She has already landed in India."

Kaur was detained by immigration authorities in California after she went for a routine check, triggering protests and concerns among her family and community members.

In the post, Ahluwalia claimed Kaur was taken from Bakersfield to Los Angeles where she was put on a flight to Georgia and thereafter to New Delhi.

He also claimed that Kaur's family members urged the authorities to give her a chance to say final goodbye to her relatives before she was sent back, but permission was denied.

In Georgia, Kaur was kept at a temporary facility for detainees, he said. "She was not even given a bed for nearly 60-70 hours, and made to sleep on the floor with a blanket. She was unable to get up as she had a double knee replacement surgery," he said.

"She was also denied a shower the entire time. Thankfully, they did not cuff her, a process followed earlier. One officer was apparently trying to cuff her but another said to avoid the process considering her age."

40 minor girls found locked inside madrasa toilet in UP

BAHRAICH (UP), PTI: Forty girls aged between nine and 14 years were found confined inside a toilet of an unregistered madrasa here during an inspection, officials said on Thursday.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Payagpur Ashwini Kumar Pandey told PTI that the district administration received repeated complaints regarding the functioning of an illegal madrasa inside a three-storey building in Pahalwara village.

"On Wednesday, when we went to the building for an inspection, the madrasa operators initially tried to stop us from going upstairs. When the toilet door was opened by female police personnel, 40 girls, aged between nine and 14, hiding inside the toilet, came out one by one," he added.

BJP picks Pradhan & Bhupender Yadav as in-charges for Bihar, Bengal polls

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The BJP on Thursday announced poll in-charges for Bihar, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan has been appointed as in-charge for Bihar, with Union minister CR Patil, and UP deputy CM Keshav Maurya as co-incharge.

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav will be in charge of West Bengal, where he will be assisted by former Tripura CM Biplab Deb.

BJP president JP Nadda also appointed Baijayant Panda as the poll in-charge of Tamil Nadu, with Murlidhar Mohol as his deputy.

Pradhan, who delivered a win in Haryana last year, has been given the task to steer the party in the face of mounting pressure from the RJD-Congress combine.

Senior party leaders said Pradhan, over the years, has

Dharmendra Pradhan

Bhupender Yadav

featured in BJP's strategic push in states like Odisha, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

While the saffron party has stitched a social coalition in the state, deputing both Patil and Maurya apart from Pradhan is a signal that the party wants to keep the caste equation intact.

In West Bengal, the BJP faces steep odds, with TMC's Mamata Banerjee expected to give a tough time to the saffron party. The lack of organisational heft for the BJP is a key concern.

In Tamil Nadu, where the BJP is yet to make significant progress, the party managed to gather 11% of votes in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections without NDA ally AIADMK.

PM to credit Rs 10k each to 75L women in Bihar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch Bihar's "Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana" on Friday and transfer Rs 10,000 each to the bank accounts of 75 lakh women across the state, totalling Rs 7,500 crore.

Officials said the scheme is aimed at making women "aatmanirbhar" (self-dependent) and promoting empowerment through self-employment and livelihood opportunities.

The scheme is universal in nature, under which financial assistance will be provided to one woman from each family in the state, enabling them to start employment or livelihood activities of their choice.

(With PTI inputs)

SC stays execution of convict in 2013 blasts case

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the execution of an alleged Indian Mujahideen operative who was sentenced to death in connection with the 2013 Dilsukhnagar blasts that left 18 dead and 131 injured.

The plea filed by convict Asadullah Akhtar was heard by a bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria.

"There shall be a stay of execution of the death sentence of the appellant," the bench said.

Two powerful explosions in Hyderabad's Dilsukhnagar town, a crowded shopping area, took place on the eve of February 21, 2013.

The first blast took place at a bus stop and another blast was near an eatery in Dilsukhnagar.

Akhtar, lodged in a Delhi jail, challenged the April verdict of the Telangana High Court upholding the death penalty to five operatives of banned terror outfit Indian Mujahideen, including its co-founder Yasin Bhatkal, in the case.

The apex court directed the Delhi government to place before it the report of all probation officers relating to Akhtar within eight weeks..

BJP's Durga Puja outreach to counter Trinamool

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

With the assembly elections just a few months away in West Bengal, the BJP has set its eyes on the Durga Puja to counter the Trinamool Congress's campaign, which sought to brand the saffron party as anti-Bengali and an 'outsider'.

With the festive spirit, which was dampened due to waterlogging caused by overnight downpour on Monday and Tuesday, slowly returning to the City of Joy, Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate a few Durga Puja pandals on Friday, including the one themed on 'Operation Sindoor'.

BJP president, J P Nadda, may also visit the city.

The TMC has been trying to build a campaign around Bangaliyana or the pride of being Bengali to counter the BJP's Hindutva blitz.

Labourers carry an idol of the goddess Durga from Kumortuli artisan's village, ahead of 'Durga Puja' festival in Kolkata. AFP

TMC has been accusing the BJP governments in states like Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Odisha, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, as well as Delhi, of harassing the Bengali-speaking migrant workers, branding them as illegal migrants from Bangladesh and, in some cases, deporting them to the neighbouring country.

Its campaign, branding the BJP as an 'outsider' in West Bengal, had helped it win 215 of the 294 seats in 2021 and retain power. The BJP's tally, however, had gone up from just three seats in 2016 to 77 in 2021.

Shah's visit to Kolkata is part of the BJP's bid to blunt the TMC's campaign and win the hearts of the Bengalis.

The most prominent of the Durga Puja he will inaugurate is at Santosh Mitra Square. The pandal has been themed on the 'Operation Sindoor'.

Shah may inaugurate a couple of other Durga Puja pandals in the city, too. Though most of the committees organising Durga Puja are controlled by the TMC, the BJP too has reached out to some over the years.

The BJP has also taken a leaf out of Left's playbook on outreach to people during the festival and asked its units across the state to set up stalls near pandals to sell books written by the party's ideologues and distribute campaign pamphlets.

Ayyappa conclave gives Kerala's Left a lift

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

In a boost to the ruling CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala, leaders of the prominent Hindu Nair and Ezhava communities have openly extended support to the Pinarayi Vijayan government and criticised both the Congress and the BJP, in the wake of the controversy surrounding the Global Ayyappa Sangamam.

The recently held conclave saw the participation of leaders from the Nair Service Society (representing the Hindu Nair community) and the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalanayogam (SNDP), representing the Hindu Ezhava community. Both the Congress and the BJP chose to stay away from the LDF-organised event.

The pro-CPM stance of these two influential communities comes at a crucial time, with Kerala gearing up for local body and Assembly elections. Historically, the Nair community has been viewed as anti-CPM, owing to the land reforms initiated by the first Communist government.

NSS general secretary Sukumaran Nair, who had earlier taken a strong stance against the CPM government over the Sabarimala women's entry issue, told a section of the media on Wednesday that the CPM government was now correcting its earlier position and deserved to be trusted.

He also criticised the BJP-led central government for failing to fulfil its promise of enacting legislation to protect religious beliefs and faiths, and noted that the Congress had never taken a clear stand on the Sabarimala issue.

SNDP Yogam general secretary Vellappally Natesan, praising CM Vijayan for organising the Ayyappa Sangamam, said that Nair's remarks were valid and that the NSS' support could benefit the Left Front in the elections.

The developments have sparked concerns within Congress circles, as Nair community votes have traditionally leaned towards the party, even though there was a shift towards the BJP in previous elections.

A longstanding friction between Opposition leader V Satheesan and the NSS leadership may also have contributed to the NSS' current pro-CPM stance.

In a damage control bid, senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala said that the party has always maintained a cordial relationship with the NSS and will continue to do so.

Revanth Reddy announces Rs 2,000 stipend to ITI students

CHENNAI, DHNS: Taking inspiration from Tamil Nadu, which provides a monthly assistance of Rs 1,000 to government school students who pursue higher education, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Thursday announced that his government will provide a stipend of Rs 2,000 every month to students of ITIs, which are being upgraded as Advanced Technology Centres.

Addressing the 'Tamil Nadu Excels in Education' events organised by the state government here, Reddy said the two states will take joint efforts to ensure that India wins at least one gold medal in the 2028 Olympics by training sportsmen. He said if Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah are not able to ensure a gold medal for India, Tamil Nadu and Telangana will realise the dream for the country.

CLASSROOM CRISIS

Only 10% of Indian students receive career guidance: Study

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A UN-sponsored study says only 10.4% of students in India receive professional guidance in higher classes to make informed career choices.

The study, which explores the career aspirations of students from Classes 9 to 12 across India, highlights gaps in information, counselling, and decision-making.

It covered 21,239 students across 14 districts in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat, Punjab, Karnataka, and Rajasthan.

The study shows that despite better access, 41% of private school students remain unsure about course selection, in comparison to 35% in government schools.

Additionally, only 22% of students have a backup career plan, which includes 24% students from private schools and 20% from government ones.

Most students lack essential planning data, and only 10% know course costs, and 38% are unsure of their target education level. The study shows that 81% face barriers to career decisions — from limited information and self-awareness to peer or family pressure and future concerns — with challenges affecting over two-thirds of both school types.

Himanshu Gupta, secretary, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) said that career plays a vital role in shaping a child's future, and the process of career planning must begin early.

"To address the guidance gap, CBSE is developing qualification standards and training modules to prepare certified career counsellors," he said.

These counsellors will guide students in making informed choices aligned with their interests and skills, he added.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Ladakh flashpoint: Address the discontent

The violence that led to the killing of four people in police firing and injuries to over 60 people in Ladakh on Wednesday is an escalation point in protests in the union territory over demands for statehood and constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule. Climate activist and Magsaysay Award winner Sonam Wangchuk commenced a hunger strike on September 10 to press the demands. Wangchuk, a highly regarded leader in the region, has staged protests earlier to highlight the demands and enjoys overwhelming popular support for his cause. He has called off his strike following the violence unleashed by a group of people who destroyed public property, attacked security personnel, and vandalised a BJP office. The trigger to the violence was the deterioration in the health of two fasting protesters.

People of Ladakh have been agitating over a set of demands since it was carved out of Jammu and Kashmir as a union territory in 2019, as part of the reorganisation of the state and the scrapping of Article 370. Though they had initially welcomed the new status, demands soon emerged for a separate state with full federal rights in a democratic framework, and protection of tribal rights of the people under the Sixth Schedule. The two district councils in the region – the Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance – representing various political and social groups, have held talks with the Centre, which has dilly-dallied on the demands. Another round of talks was scheduled for October 6, and the protesters, especially youngsters, have demanded talks on an earlier date and a time-bound resolution of the matter.

The government must revisit the strategy for talks, approach demands with urgency and purpose

Wangchuk had warned about discontent among the young people, caused by the government's indifference to their demands. He has said that the untoward incidents were the result of Gen Z's disappointment at their aspirations being ignored. The Union government has blamed Wangchuk and the opposition Congress for instigating the violence. Instead of looking for provocateurs and instigators, the government should positively respond to the grievances of the people in the region. Their demands are genuine. Ladakhis have felt that their culture, lifestyle, and environment are being threatened, and they need safeguards to protect their way of life. Two years ago, Wangchuk had cautioned the government that its indifference was sowing the seeds of militancy in the region. Ladakh is an area of strategic importance. The government should address the legitimate concerns of the people and take early steps to ensure that the situation does not deteriorate.

S L Bhyrappa: A rich, provocative legacy

S L Bhyrappa, who died at 94 on Wednesday, was one of India's most prolific and provocative writers. In a career spanning six decades, he wrote 24 novels, many of which sparked intense and acrimonious debates. His fiction spanned subjects as diverse as myth and history, tradition and urbanisation, sexuality and space travel. Unusually for a writer tackling such weighty subjects, he had a huge and avid following, with his novels selling in record numbers and going into multiple reprints. Bhyrappa, who wrote in Kannada, has been translated extensively into other Indian languages and enjoys an admiring readership in Marathi and Hindi as well.

Born in 1931 into a poor family in Hassan district of Karnataka, Bhyrappa studied in a village school before moving to Mysuru for college. In his student years, he lived a life of extreme hardship. When he was in high school, he followed a cousin to Mumbai, worked as a railway porter, and wandered around for a year with two holy men before returning to Mysuru. He resumed his studies, wrote a doctoral thesis on truth and beauty, and began teaching philosophy. *Parva* (1979) is widely regarded as one of his finest works. It is an insightful retelling of the Mahabharata, and continues to trigger discussions. It recently inspired a mega theatre production. The best minds of modern Kannada literature and cinema engaged with Bhyrappa's fiction. Girish Karnad and B V Karanth adapted his novel *Tabbaliyu Neenade Magane* (1968) and made a film of the same title. Girish Kasaravalli directed a tele-serial based on Bhyrappa's novel *Gruhabhanga*. *Matadana* and *Nayi Neralu* – both novels – were also made into films.

His novels spanned themes as diverse as myth, history, classical music and space travel

Bhyrappa emerged on the literary firmament after such greats as Kuvempu and Shivarama Karanth. His contemporaries included U R Ananthamurthy, Poornachandra Tejaswi, and P Lankesh, all of whom looked at his body of work with scepticism. When *Avarana*, his most controversial book, was published in 2007, Ananthamurthy called it dangerous, suggesting that he had veered too far right with his Hindu-Muslim polemics. Aravind Adiga wrote that *Avarana* was his weakest novel, and that it would ensure that he would be passed over for the Jnanpith. With *Avarana*, Adiga said Bhyrappa was in "danger of having a fanbase composed entirely of bigots." Bhyrappa was never personally interested in party politics, but the Hindu right wing had indeed embraced him, finding his philosophical positions on religion and history aligning with its own pet theories. Top BJP leaders have condoled his passing, while the stalwarts of Kannada literary criticism have respectfully remained mum. A recipient of many honours, including the Padma Bhushan, Bhyrappa was, without doubt, a writer who just couldn't be ignored.

LEARN, UNLEARN, RELEARN

In uncertain times, skilling is India's safety net

Workers' contributions can also be used as career insurance, to fund training that keeps them employable

UTTAM PRAKASH AND ROHIT MANI TIWARI

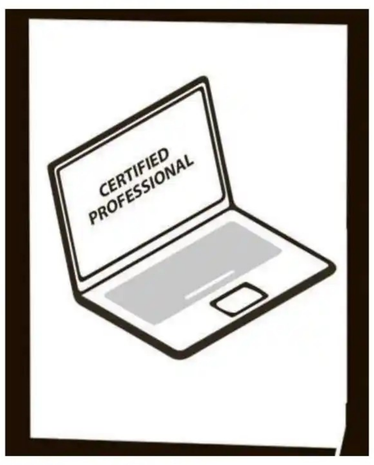
Alvin Toffler once said, "*The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who can't read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.*" Half a century later, that feels less like prophecy and more like a survival strategy.

In his 79th Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged to be an active partner in building Viksit Bharat. The message is clear: from made-in-India semiconductors to enhanced nuclear capacity, from critical minerals to employment, India must stand on its feet to prosper, especially in an age of disruption, where markets can be erased overnight and AI can make jobs vanish in months. Dependence will derail ambition, whether in energy or in the labour market.

The United States, India's biggest export market, has hit us with a double tariff blow: 25% plus 25% which the Ministry of Commerce says could impact $86.5 billion worth of exports this year. MSMEs, described in Budget 2025-26 as "one of the key engines in India's journey of development," account for 45.73% of exports and employ over 25 million people, and are deeply tied into value chains with industry giants who are not immune either. TCS plans to cut 2% of global staff and has frozen onboarding for 600 hires. "More things with fewer people" is becoming the organising principle of the industry. Youth, women, and other vulnerable groups are at even greater risk. The UN warns that many MSMEs may not survive the AI wave. The ILO's Director has cautioned that "skills development must be fundamental to India's employment strategy," while UNESCO has declared 2025 the year of 'Youth empowerment through AI and digital skills'.

There are two moves on the chessboard. One, continue diplomatic efforts and push bilateral agreements in a mission mode. The other, and perhaps more sustainable one, is to look inwards, sharpen our competitive edge, build a workforce that can adapt faster than disruption strikes, whether from tariff-driven "bloodless assaults" or the rapid scaling of AI and automation. The first track buys time. The second builds strength. That requires making "learn, unlearn, relearn" not just a personal mantra but a national policy.

The soul of self-reliance is a strong skill framework. The India Skills Report 2024 found only 51% of graduates employable, with even lower rates in some technical streams. That drags down competitiveness. One bold idea is to link social security with skilling. EPFO and PFRDA, which operate on a deferred income model, could earmark a small portion of contributions for a skills fund. Today, workers contribute during their careers and withdraw only at retirement or in emergencies. But what if part of those contributions also keeps them employable by funding certified, industry-relevant training throughout their working lives? A sort of career insurance.



These institutions could serve as delivery hubs: financing training, connecting workers to accredited providers through NSDC and sector skill councils, and maintaining a skills ledger that follows across jobs and geographies. A minimum contributory period would ensure accountability, while guaranteeing equal access to both white- and blue-collar workers. In an age of trade turbulence and AI disruption, such a model could turn social security from a passive safety net into an active engine of resilience. The newly launched Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojna is a step in the right direction, requiring workers to complete financial literacy training to access full benefits. We can scale up this idea: no withdrawals from the 'skill account' unless used for programmes tied to employable skills ending in real hiring.

Sceptics will ask why risk retirement funds for training that may not guarantee jobs. The answer is safeguards. The system must be opt-in, capped at a safe percentage, and matched by contributions from workers, industry, and possibly the government. This is not about raiding the corpus; it is about co-investing in employability. Singapore's SkillsFuture credits and Germany's dual apprenticeship system show that when funding, employer partnerships, and accountability align, lifelong skilling works. India can take lessons with an emphasis on measurable outcomes and employer buy-in.

Operation and challenges

A worker's UAN or PRAN could be linked to a skill account managed by EPFO or PFRDA. Co-funded by workers, employers, and possibly the government, it would be accessible only for certified courses through NSDC and sector skill councils. A portable skills ledger would track training across jobs and geographies. Industry would co-invest, ensuring training aligns with real hiring pipelines. Since the fund is purpose-bound, it would not vanish into unrelated expenditures.

Execution is the toughest hurdle. India's training programmes have a mixed record, plagued by poor quality, low completion rates, and weak industry relevance. For this idea to work, it must enforce ruthless quality control, transparent fund management, and strong employer partnerships. Otherwise, it risks becoming another well-intentioned policy that burns cash without building capability.

Harvard's Mark Moore offers a useful 'Strategic Triangle' to test public policy: does it create real value, will stakeholders back it, and do we have the capacity to deliver? Linking social security to skilling clears the first test easily. The second depends on careful execution, and the third is achievable with institutions already proven to deliver at scale.

A skilled, adaptable workforce is as strategic as any nuclear reactor or space station. If India can combine self-reliant industries with self-reliant workers, it can absorb tariff shocks, ride the AI wave, and turn uncertainty into opportunity. This idea is not entirely new. In the 19th century, Bismarck's social insurance kept workers not only solvent in old age but employable through life. That principle is just as relevant today.

India can build not just on machines and minerals, but on the continuous reinvention of its people and the full use of its demographic dividend.

(Uttam is Regional PF Commissioner – Kochi, and an alumnus of ISS The Hague; Rohit is Regional Labour Commissioner – Thiruvananthapuram. He was part of the drafting committees for the Industrial Relations Code and the Code on Wages)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Writing capers to fleeting fame

For the old fogey, it was time to bask in the limelight of publicity

KRISHNASWAMY RAO D

Me occasionally going about flaunting my literary pretensions has caused situations both piquant and pleasant at times.

This one was when I had been writing sort of light-hearted capers for a leading English newspaper. The assistant editor, whose fate it was to slog through my pieces of literary marvel, once invited us writers to a get-together with him at his office over coffee. There were some twenty-plus of us in the group then – all of us strangers, except for our names. Coming face to face with me as I mentioned my name, the dapper, young journo appeared a bit taken aback. "Oh! You're quite elderly!" he exclaimed. Retracting soon from his words, the young man smiled back: "Your writing is quite young! I like it."

I knew he was being truthful in his compliments for my writing skills. For, most of my pieces were being approved by him, verbatim.

One more, this one about a different kettle. Finding myself unexpectedly rich in money one day, with half a dozen wads of currency notes on hand, I went up to my bank to deposit the windfall cash into my account. Writing out the slip of the bank's deposit challan, I stood in queue at the cash counter. Handing over the burden into the outstretched hands of the girl across the counter, I waited. Now, tapping on the computer keyboard, the girl called out, "May I know your name, sir?" Strange, my name was just what I had written on the slip of that paper.

"Sir, I saw this name in the morning newspaper today, while reading that article *Coffee Lore*. Is it you, sir?" "Yes. I'm the same one," I replied. "Wow! Please wait a little. I just want to have a look at you." Standing on tiptoe, the girl stared at me wide-eyed and sat down with a "Thank you." Not finding anything more exciting, perhaps. For the old fogey, it was being on cloud nine, basking in the limelight of publicity. And writing a skit about it later!

One more, and this one is a bit bizarre. It was the one headlined *Dancing With Dudes*. It was about a frolicsome act of dancing around while meeting and greeting K Shivarama Karanth, a renowned, multifaceted Kannada literary personality.

I came to know about it appearing in print when one of my cousins called to enquire whether it was indeed me who had authored the piece. And it was! That is because I have been in constant dispute with my name as it stands. My name is quite a misnomer of sorts, meaning many things to many in my family circle. Maybe the subject can be considered good stuff for a doctoral dissertation on framing names and surnames!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't dismiss protests as provocative, engage with people

The tragic deaths in Ladakh amidst the protests for statehood highlight a deep disconnect between the people and the government at the Centre. The long-standing demand for constitutional safeguards, cultural preservation, and political autonomy remains unaddressed. Imposing a curfew and deploying security forces may temporarily suppress unrest but cannot resolve the underlying grievances. Voices from the region like Sonam Wangchuk's echo the desperation of a people that feels ignored following the abrogation of Article 370. Instead of dismissing these protests as "provocative," the Centre must engage in meaningful dialogue with the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance. Ladakhis are not seeking privilege, but dignity, representation, and protection of their fragile ecosystem and unique identity. The deaths should serve as a wake-up call: neglecting legitimate democratic aspirations risks turning Ladakh's silence into lasting unrest.
Sruti Bera, Bengaluru

E-verification's good

I refer to 'EC rolls out e-verification to stop misuse of name deletion' (Sep 25). The Election Commission's decision to introduce e-verification for name deletion is a welcome step. For too long, voter rolls have been vulnerable to manipulation, with people mischievously deleting genuine names. A simple OTP-based check can save many citizens the harassment of being turned away on polling day. However, the EC must also publicise this widely, so voters know their rights and can act promptly against foul play.
Vanya Chhabra, Bengaluru

Issue strong rebuttal

I refer to 'Trump at UN: China, India primary funders of Ukraine war' (Sep 24). US President Donald Trump's accusations against China and India as being the 'primary funders' of the Ukraine war, should be unequivocally rejected. Silence would imply consent. Trump's claims of brokering peace between India and Pakistan have been emphatically denied by India, and his recent comments seem to be an attempt to garner attention for the Nobel Peace Prize.
H P Murali, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

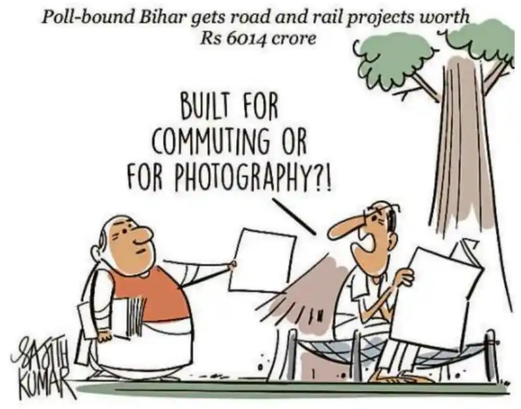
There was a government of policy paralysis for 10 years. The entire world claimed that the Manmohan Singh government was suffering from policy paralysis. We made India a policy-driven state...

Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

Don't blow off another's candle for it won't make yours shine brighter.

Jaachynma N E Agu

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

Repo cut or calibrated pause?

The MPC will meet next week amid rate cut speculations. Holding it at 5.5% will be a prudent response

T K JAYARAMAN

The data on the monthly Consumer Price Index-based, year-on-year headline inflation for August was released on September 12. Inflation in August rose to 2.07% from 1.61% in July, the first increase in nine months since November 2024, when it was 5.48%. It is below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) target inflation rate (4%) under the flexible inflation targeting framework. This comes with a permissible fluctuation range – a comfort zone between +2% and -2% – to take into account the uncertainties associated with natural disasters faced by the monsoon-dependent India, which is predominantly an agricultural economy.

The risks arise from drought, excessive rainfall, and floods, as well as high volatility in fluctuations in energy prices – India imports nearly 86% of its crude requirements. The monthly core inflation, which excludes domestic food and fuel prices from its scope, was also seen as rising from 4.2% in July to 4.3% in August – this is in step with the rise in retail inflation. Past increases in prices of food and energy goods have already seeped in since then, as increased costs of transportation, processed manufactured consumer goods, and wages push the monthly retail inflation.

Trends in past economic growth and inflation, monitored by international funding agencies including the IMF, and macroeconomic indicators of the two quarters of FY26, assure policymakers that the Indian economy is on the right path. The growth and inflation forecasts for FY26 are 6.2% and 4.2%, respectively. That leads us to infer that the growth-inflation differential is two percentage points. This indicates the economy is on fairly stable ground.

The above calculations do not take into account the likely impact the latest reforms announced in the general services and sales tax (GST) have on inflation and growth. With the GST rate on about 295 essential items being reduced from 12% to 5%, the inflation is likely to come down further. With a fall in the selling prices of consumer goods, domestic consumption, which is a major component (65%) of the Gross Domestic Product, is expected to see a boost during the festival seasons: Dasara in September, Deepavali in October, and Christmas in December.

Foreign exchange reserves

Although the rupee hit the lowest level at 88.47 on September 11, foreign reserves rose by the weekend of September 13 to a near record high and crossed $700 billion for the third time. The jump took them close to the high of $705 billion, which was recorded almost a year ago. India's hopes also rose on September 18, with a cut in the United States Federal Reserve's interest rate by 25 basis points, a move aimed at combatting recession.

The India-US interest rate differential has risen to 1.25% (5.5% - 4.25%), giving rise to new expectations about an increase in the inflows of capital from the US institutional investors. On the other hand, a shift in policy by the Donald Trump administration is predicted to leave a deep impact: a sharp hike in the H-1B visa fee for migrant IT workers in the US, which now stands at $100,000. This disruption has potentially wide-ranging implications in India's IT services sector and its economy.

The rupee crashed the steepest, to Rs 88.8/US$ on Tuesday, September 23. On the day, the Indian rupee was the weakest amongst major currencies in Asia. Since then, the RBI has been intervening in the markets to stabilise the rupee and is in the process of running down the reserves.

The foreign reserves data on September 26 is expected to provide fresh indications of the market conditions. The RBI, in its just-released State of the Economy report, notes that a robust pass-through of a 100 basis points cut in repo accomplished since February this year, along with the income tax simplification and GST reforms, has "revived growth impulses".

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will meet from September 29 to October 1. Though the August report shows that the country's economy is on the right path, a new set of uncertainties will shape these pathways. The unfinished trade talks tell us that it is better to postpone the consideration of a rate cut to the MPC meeting in December. Considering the multiple factors in play, a status quo, with a shift in stance to accommodative from the current neutral, appears to be the right step forward. A response on these lines will be in the best traditions of the RBI's conservative, careful, and calibrated approach, which it has assiduously built through the decades.

(The writer was a senior economist with the Asian Development Bank, Manila)

Kerala's Wildlife Amendment Bill: Conservation or political optics?

SHUBHRA SOTIE

In Kerala, forests and human settlements exist in close and complex proximity. Beyond agricultural losses and property damage, between 2016 and January 2025, 919 human deaths and 8,967 injuries due to wildlife encounters have been recorded. While negative interactions between people and wildlife demand policy responses informed by science, the proposed Wildlife Protection (Kerala Amendment) Bill, 2025, substitutes haste and political expediency for evidence and legal prudence.

Kerala's attempt to amend the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 – a central piece of legislation – opens an aggressive front by allowing the state to authorise the killing, capture or translocation of wild animals found in public places where people gather or in residential areas. Not only does this override the Centre's authority to make such decisions, but the broad and vague language used throughout the bill invites misinterpretation and misuse. It lacks the specificity that distinguishes sound conservation from unscientific removal of animals.

Concerningly, the bill defines "residential area" as any geographical area where people reside. In a state like Kerala, where 30% of the land is under forest cover and over 300 villages house some 70 lakh people along forest fringes, few areas would fall outside this definition. This could open the door to an indiscriminate and potentially widespread culling, a scenario that runs counter to the fundamental spirit and intent of the Wildlife Protection Act.

Further, the bill defines an animal as "dangerous to human life" if it has either attacked a person outside a forest or is merely "found" in a residential area outside the boundaries of a forest or protected area. This effectively grants the state a pre-emptive strike, bypassing subjective assessments. Stating that an animal in a residential area is "dangerous to human life" is a dangerous presumption. Animals, such as leopards, snakes, elephants, or even birds, may be merely traversing through a residential area without posing an immediate threat.

The bill also inserts a provision on population management by presenting relocation as a prospective solution. Decades of data from across the country have demonstrated that removal and relocation do not resolve conflict, are expensive, and may in fact exacerbate the problem.

These provisions risk weaponising a law meant to protect wildlife, while offering little in terms of long-term solutions.

While the proposed provisions are contentious, the legal validity of the amendment itself is questionable. While the 'protection of wild animals and birds' is a subject on the concurrent list, allowing both Centre and state to legislate, the bill contains provisions that are inconsistent with the central Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (WLPA), therefore attracting the constitutional doctrine of repugnancy. Article 254 says that where a state law is repugnant to a central law on a subject on the concurrent list, the central law prevails, and the state law is void to the extent of repugnancy.

There are several instances where the doctrine of repugnancy will apply in this amendment. Firstly, the insertion permitting the Chief Wildlife Warden, upon a report from the District Collector or Chief Conservator of Forest, "without delay" to permit/cause the killing of a Schedule-I animal found in a public/residential area after an attack is a red flag. This can conflict with the central WLPA proviso that forbids killing orders unless the CWLW is satisfied that the animal cannot be captured, tranquilised, or translocated, i.e., the central law requires attempts at non-lethal measures before killing.

Secondly, the bill amends Section 62 to empower the State Government to declare Schedule-II animals to be "vermin". The WLPA presently vests that notification power in the Central Government alone. The state assuming an overriding power is incompatible and inconsistent with the central act.

Lastly, another repugnancy arises in the proposed delisting of the bonnet macaque from Schedule I to Schedule II. The schedules are allocations in a central statute intended to maintain uniformity across the country. Unilateral state reclassification risks direct inconsistency with the central list and therefore is untenable.

The odds favour the law's inoperability, which begs the question of the timing of the bill. Kerala heads into local body polls in November-December and Assembly elections not long after. Conflict with wildlife is a visceral, emotive issue in rural constituencies. By promising decisive action, the government positions itself as the protector of lives and livelihoods. But this is electoral optics, not conservation strategy.

What the bill really does is reassure anxious communities in the short term, while ignoring underlying drivers of conflict. The Wildlife Protection (Kerala Amendment) Bill, 2025, is not a solution. It is a short-term political fix wrapped in the language of protection. For Kerala's people and its wildlife alike, that is a dangerous path.

(The writer is a wildlife research and policy specialist, Humane World for Animals India)

From the Pentagon Papers to Watergate, the American press once held power to account; now its very survival is in question, showing that freedom of the press isn't a given

Global lessons from a press in peril

MARTIN BARON

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Every year of my journalistic career of nearly half a century, I have known only a free and independent press in the United States. My professional start was in the 1970s. Those were years when Americans could see clearly how the press served democracy:

With the publication of the Pentagon Papers, first by *The New York Times*, the American public learnt of the failures its government had covered up during a long war in Vietnam that cost so many lives. And then there was Watergate, an investigation spearheaded by *The Washington Post*. US citizens learnt how their president had weaponised the government against his political adversaries, abusing his powers and sabotaging the Constitution.

In the decades since those revelations, I took for granted that my country would always enjoy press freedom — and that the First Amendment of our Constitution would guarantee it. I no longer take any of that for granted. I no longer assume that the constitutional order will hold in the United States. Or that the rule of law will prevail. Or that free expression – not just for the press, but for all Americans – will endure.

That is because we have a president who has demonstrated disdain for traditional restraints on his power. Because a majority in Congress remains servile. Because a majority on the Supreme Court has handed this president extraordinary authority and immunity. Because the president appears determined to lay siege to institutional pillars of democracy, with the press as a high-priority target. And it is because those institutions are proving to be more fragile and faint-hearted than I imagined possible.

And perhaps most concerning to me is that we now live in a time when people are unable, or unwilling, to distinguish between what is true and what is false. It is only natural — and, in a democracy, expected — that we will disagree about which policies are best. Yet today we cannot agree on how to determine a fact. All of the elements we have historically relied upon to establish facts — education, expertise, experience and, above all, evidence — have been denigrated, dismissed and denied.

How can democracy flourish, or even survive, when we can't determine the most basic facts? If democracy is in danger, a free press is, too. An independent press cannot survive without a democracy. And there is a corollary to that. A democracy cannot survive without a free press. There has never been a democracy without a media that is free and independent.

The playbook of aspiring authoritarians is well-established. High on their to-do list is crushing the press, an institution that can shed light on what political leaders are up to and that might hold them to account. Their repressive practices extend well beyond the press, however—they seek to abolish free expression altogether, the right of musicians, authors, artists, playwrights and screenwriters to express themselves as they wish. The right of the public to listen to, see and read what they feel they should. The right of business executives, academics, activists and political leaders to advocate for the policies they believe in. The right of every one of us to speak freely with family, friends, neighbours and colleagues without fear of surveillance and reprisal.

The rights that the press strives to safeguard are no different from the rights most people want for themselves—the freedom to enquire into facts, to share what they've learnt, and to communicate what they believe. Much more is at risk than the freedom to express opinions. The real target of autocrats is truth itself. They aim to extinguish all independent arbiters of fact, whether they happen to be judges, scholars, scientists, statisticians or journalists. In nations tilting toward authoritarianism, heads of state claim sole ownership of the truth. And they rig, suppress or erase data to advance their lies.

That is what is happening now in the United States. Facts are under attack while the government demands that its fictions be unquestioningly repeated.

For decades, the United States was a bastion of free expression of all types, with constitutional protections seemingly secured. That is no longer the case. We were a model for citizens in other nations who yearned for similar liberty. We no longer are. We were a forceful champion for these freedoms elsewhere. Civil rights activists, democracy advocates and independent journalists worldwide often counted on our support when faced with repression. They no longer can expect it.

In a famous 1941 speech about four essential human freedoms, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt listed "freedom of speech and expression" as the very first. And he pointedly added the words "everywhere in the world". Today, with an aspiring autocrat as president, the United States is failing to embrace the freedoms that Franklin Delano Roosevelt considered indispensable for a better world. Independent media was already in peril globally, a casualty of diminished confidence in democracy and the rise of a new generation of authoritarians. Our president has placed the press worldwide — and freedom of expression generally — in even greater jeopardy.

What President Donald Trump and his allies contemptuously disregard is why the founders of the United States drafted the First Amendment to the Constitution. James Madison was the principal author. And in describing the role of the press and of free expression, he spoke of the "right of freely examining public characters and measures". The word "examining" deserves special attention. Here is how the dictionary defines its meaning: "To inspect closely", "to enquire into carefully/investigate", "to test by questioning in order to determine progress, fitness, or knowledge".

Apply that to journalists, and it means we are not stenographers. Nor should we be. We go behind the curtain and beneath the surface – to learn who did what and why, who will be affected and how, and who influenced those decisions and with what intent.

The purpose of journalism, in my view, is to provide the public with the information it needs and deserves to know so that people might govern themselves. Embedded within that mission is a particularly high calling: holding powerful individuals and institutions to account.

Those with power have the capacity to do enormous good. When they do, and when ordinary individuals do, we in the press should make that known. Praiseworthy efforts to improve society should be shared with others.

At the same time, some wrongs can be committed at an extraordinary scale. Often the fault lies with those who possess disproportionate power, including the means to cover up their misdeeds. Immoral or unlawful conduct can go undetected for years or decades. Ordinary people can suffer severe harm. Victims are often ignored or muzzled.

So, the public has much at stake in the struggle for free expression and an independent press. People must have a right to voice their grievances. The media should be prepared to listen and investigate.

When there is grave wrongdoing, often no one but journalists will explore the facts. When there are no journalists to report on corruption, inevitably there is more of it, with ordinary citizens paying the greatest price. When no independent media exists to draw attention, those who possess immense power seize the opportunity to acquire more. Their interests are served; the public's needs are not.

As the US government abandons the cause of freedom worldwide, my hope is that citizens in other countries now will become a model for Americans who took their own freedoms for granted. They can show us how best to struggle against a repressive government. And in the difficult fight to uphold the fundamental democratic principles of free expression and an independent press, they can provide inspiration.

(The writer was executive editor of The Washington Post *from 2013 to 2021 and previously held the top editor position at* The Boston Globe *and* Miami Herald*)*

(DH is part of the global initiative to mark World News Day on September 28, and this article is the fourth in a series published as part of this initiative)

WORLD NEWS DAY
Journalism Matters
DH
DECCAN HERALD
SEPTEMBER 28

What our roads say about us

VIVEK AGARWAL

On September 14, a BMW slammed into a motorcycle in Delhi, killing a senior government official and critically injuring his wife. The driver was arrested, but the tragedy reignites a painfully familiar question about road safety in Indian cities. For every high-profile case that shocks the nation, countless others occur daily with little attention. These are not isolated accidents but symptoms of deeper structural and cultural failures.

Registered vehicle ownership has increased fivefold between 2001 and 2020. National highways have nearly tripled in length, but state road capacity grew by only 41% in the same period. The result is overloaded city roads.

Traffic is further slowed by India's heterogeneous mix of vehicles. Two-wheelers and cars accelerate 33-66% faster than auto-rickshaws or buses, but all clear an intersection at the pace of the slowest vehicle. A single rickshaw can slow down a stream of even the fastest cars.

Roadside encroachments -- stalls, carts, and parked vehicles – push pedestrians onto busy streets, worsening congestion and raising risks.

While laws prescribe heavy fines, enforcement remains patchy, sometimes for fear of public backlash. Clearing encroachments, for instance, threatens livelihoods; it is neither politically desirable nor morally tenable. A 2024 nationwide survey found that of Rs 12,000 crore in traffic fines issued, nearly Rs 9,000 crore remain unpaid -- an indication that deterrence is weak.

Beyond infrastructure and enforcement lies drive behaviours -- the "road culture". It is tempting to argue that aggressive driver behaviour is simply a response to a resource-constrained situation. But even on empty streets, rules are flouted -- signals are ignored, lanes blurred, and speed limits crossed.

This culture reflects deeper social habits. Jugaad, often celebrated as ingenuity, also normalises rule-bending. Larger vehicles routinely edge out smaller ones; pedestrians scramble for space. When accidents occur, mobs tend to always blame the larger vehicle – a sign of India's dormant socialist streak.

Contrast this with Singapore or Tokyo, where order prevails even at peak congestion. Singapore enforces strict fines, extensive surveillance, and controls vehicle ownership. Furthermore, the psychological cost of rule-following diminishes when laws apply evenly. Compliance breeds smoother commutes, which in turn validate the system and foster further compliance. Hence the question: do roads mirror a city's culture, or do they shape it?

According to the sociologist Erving Goffman, the answer is a yes. He argued that public interactions define what people see as appropriate or permissible. The "broken windows" theory echoes this: visible disorder breeds deeper law-breaking. Therefore, where collective respect and the rule of law hold firm, courtesy on the roads comes more naturally. By extension, where enforcement is lax and distrust in officialdom runs high, roads degenerate into battlegrounds of competing interests.

The real prize, however, is in deciphering whether the causal arrow can point the other way. Could a better road culture improve broader social trust? Research from Rutgers University shows that cooperative practices in shared public spaces can foster lasting trust. If everyday acts of politeness on the road, such as yielding space or respecting right-of-way, become second nature, then that civility may spread to workplaces, schools, and beyond.

Improving road culture, therefore, is about more than cutting travel times or crash rates. It is a conduit for strengthening community behaviour and faith in governance. To leverage this potential, India must pursue reforms that draw on role modelling, demonstrate political intent, and dissuade bad road culture.

First, every large city should pilot 'model roads' backed by uncompromising enforcement to prove that disciplined driving reduces travel times and enhances safety. These small victories can ripple outward, just as broken-windows theory predicts.

Second, traffic fines must be rationalised. Sky-high fines often invite petty bribes, while enforcing the many thousands of violations caught by CCTV systems risks backlash. Through controlled trials, governments can right-size or explore progressive fines to maximise deterrence without fuelling corruption or resentment.

Finally, no behaviour change endures without a robust public awareness campaign. The swagger associated with jumping a signal or jaywalking must be replaced by disapproving public stares. What we need is a robust campaign that touches people across all walks of life to anchor a new civic norm.

Traffic management, at its core, is a social contract – a mutual commitment that signals collective care and responsibility. When rules are non-negotiable, they build respect; when courtesy and safety are prized, those values spill over into other aspects of civic life. Traffic thus operates both as a mirror and a mould, reflecting a community's ethos while simultaneously shaping it.

(The writer is a global policy expert and Country Director, India, at the Tony Blair Institute)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER 1975

Afghanistan's plea to Pakistan

United Nations, Sept 25
Afghanistan urged Pakistan in the UN General Assembly yesterday not to delay a solution to the problem between the two countries on the issue of the rights of the Pashtun and Baluchi people. Mr. Waheed Abdullah, Deputy Foreign Minister said: "Despite our continuous efforts, the only country with which we, regrettably, have not been able to establish friendly relations is Pakistan. The only impediment is the settlement of the legitimate and human rights of our Pashtun and Baluchi brothers."

25 YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER 2000

Gebrselassie edges out Tergat for 10,000M gold

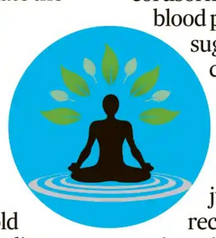
Sydney, Sept 25
The match-up between Haile Gebrselassie and Paul Tergat over 10,000M was the last final on a crowded night's programme but it proved to be the best, a sprint finish culminating in a remarkable triumph for the Ethiopian legend. Gebrselassie, unbeaten in 10,000M for the last seven years, nosed ahead in the last three strides to defend his gold medal. Gebrselassie clocked 27 minutes 18.20 seconds and Kenya's Tergat 27 minutes 18.29 seconds.

OASIS | HARISH BARTHWAL

Harness the benign powers of human touch

The moment a mother holds the continuously crying child in her arms, its pain subsides and a congenial grin permeates all around. Besides nutrition a breastfed child receives, it fares better on emotional scale and emerges as a rounded personality. Motherly touch lends instant relief to the young one struck with fear, premonition or anger, so benign is the power of human touch. A pat on the back of a student or player by father or master raises his morale and performance level. Human touch elicits quick response. It is an unfailing instrumentality to convey affection, intimacy, appreciation, approval and support. Friendly touch assuages mental problems more effectively than do the medications.

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch," said Leo Buscaglia, which has "the potential to turn a life around." Among all senses, touch is the most intelligent because it is the most sensitive, said Aristotle. It can sense the attributes of the objects in contact like hot, cold or vibratory so the body can adjust accordingly. Touching one's own arms, neck, face or other parts helps relax the body in stressful state. Touch power can distinguish between the well-meaning 'good touch' and mal fide 'bad touch'. The good touch releases dopamine and cortisol hormones that help regulate blood pressure, anxiety, and blood sugar, among others. Dopamine can create motivation and pleasure.



Interestingly, the language of touch is also sensed by animals and birds. We witness jubilant and disciplined pets receiving human touch. Plants also relish it. Scientific studies have demonstrated that the particular plants being caressed undergo better growth than the neglected ones in the vicinity. Hand-written letters of fathers and other elderlies to their children, considered sacrosanct by many of earlier generations, were preserved by them. Imbued with intimacies, such letters carrying manual impressions tended to buttress the ancestral bonding and helped them stay on path of rectitude. Human touch is a vital feature of Sanathana culture. While seeking blessings from persons older in age, and superior in intelligence and knowledge, touching the feet is believed to transfer positive vibes to the recipient. Lack of human touch and widening interpersonal spaces are perhaps to be blamed for the erosion of relationships and rendering the man lonelier.

DAY AFTER LADAKH PROTESTS: Home Ministry claims FCRA violations in handling Rs 9.81 lakh

Wangchuk's NGO loses foreign fund licence

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Thursday cancelled the licence of the Sonam Wangchuk-founded Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL) to collect foreign donations with "immediate effect", claiming violation of laws in the handling of Rs 9.81 lakh during 2021–22.

The action came a day after the MHA blamed Wangchuk, who was on a hunger strike demanding statehood and constitutional safeguards for Ladakh, for inciting violence in the Union Territory. The ministry alleged that Wangchuk misled people through the "provocative mention" of an Arab Spring-style protest and "references to Gen Z protests in Nepal".

Sonam Wangchuk

SECMOL had been served a show-cause notice on August 20, seeking an explanation on five counts, including Wangchuk depositing money into its FCRA account and three persons depositing money into its foreign donation account, violating provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act.

Violation of rules

One of the charges for the cancellation of the FCRA licence was that Wangchuk had deposited Rs 3.5 lakh into the designated account in violation of rules.

In its reply on September 19, SECMOL said that it was related to the sale proceeds of an old bus procured in July 2015 using foreign funds, and, as it was an asset accrued using foreign donations, it needed to be deposited in the FCRA account.

The MHA dismissed the explanation as "not tenable" and said the accounts submitted for 2021-22 had shown the amount as foreign donations from Wangchuk, and it appeared that the amount was received in cash.

To MHA's contention that local funds of Rs 54,600 were deposited in the FCRA account, SECMOL had claimed that Rs 18,200 each was "mistakenly" deposited by three individuals towards their food and accommodation in the FCRA account instead of the local account.

"Our website clearly specifies that Indian volunteers should transfer contributions to the local account and foreign volunteers to the FCRA account. Despite these instructions, the volunteers inadvertently sent to the wrong account," it said, an explanation which the MHA refused to buy, saying the NGO has admitted to crediting local funds to the FCRA account.

The MHA also found fault with SECMOL receiving Rs 4.93 lakh from a Swedish organisation for a project for creating awareness among youth on issues such as "migration, climate change, global warming, food security and sovereignty and organic farming" through workshops and training programmes.

It said the NGO admitted that the funds were for "study on sovereignty of the country, and the fund had also been spent in line with the objectives of the foreign donors", which is "against the national interest of the country".

The return of Rs 19,600 to Megha Sanghvi of IIM-Indore, received for food and accommodation for volunteering with the NGO, was also flagged as a violation by the MHA. SECMOL said that the amount was returned after the volunteer programme was cancelled due to the Covid-19 lockdown in June 2021.

The MHA said that refunding the donor was "likely to use the foreign contribution for personal gain or divert it for undesirable purpose".

Security personnel in a truck (L) patrol a deserted road as they pass a burnt police vehicle torched by the demonstrators near the BJP office in Leh on Thursday. AFP

Leh simmers after violence; curfew continues

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

A day after violent protests left four people dead and over 70 injured, Ladakh's capital Leh remained under curfew on Thursday with prohibitory orders extended to neighbouring Kargil district and other major towns.

Reports said more than 50 people were detained in predawn raids as security forces fanned out across the Union Territory to prevent further escalation.

The unrest, the most serious since Ladakh was carved out as a separate Union Territory in 2019, erupted on Wednesday when demonstrators gathered at the site of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk's hunger strike. While the main protest was peaceful, a section of youth clashed with security forces, triggering the bloodshed.

In a tough response, the administration filed an FIR against Congress councillor Phuntsog Stanzin and cracked down on local organisers. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah came out in defence of the Congress and said it is the BJP's habit to blame others for its own failures, and the violence in Leh was no different.

Wangchuk, seen as the face of Ladakh's statehood campaign, dismissed the charges as a diversion. He accused the Centre of making him a "scapegoat" instead of addressing what he called the "frustration of six years of unemployment and unmet promises". He warned that targeting individuals would "further aggravate" the situation.

Kargil, where the Kargil Democratic Alliance had called for a complete shutdown, observed a total strike. In Leh, the agitation is being steered by the Leh Apex Body.

Together, the two groups have been pressing for restoration of statehood and constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule to protect the region's fragile ecology and tribal identity.

The Centre has held multiple rounds of talks with Ladakhi leaders, most recently in New Delhi earlier this month, but has refrained from offering a timeline for meeting the core demands. This, protesters say, has deepened resentment among Ladakh's youth.

In Srinagar, Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq expressed sorrow over the deaths, describing the crisis in Ladakh as "aftershocks" of the August 5, 2019, decision that stripped Jammu and Kashmir of its special status and split the state into two Union Territories.

With curfew and prohibitory orders still in force, the administration has appealed for calm. But the heavy security presence, continuing detentions and uncertainty over talks with the Centre suggest that Ladakh's agitation is far from over.

Oppn blames BJP

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Opposition on Thursday attacked the ruling BJP over the violence in Ladakh, accusing it of ignoring demands for statehood and constitutional protection and unleashing "repressive measures" on protesters.

As the Modi government blamed activist Sonam Wangchuk for Wednesday's violence, Opposition parties said the developments were the result of the BJP's "short-sightedness" and urged that talks be initiated to address people's concerns.

Congress Media and Publicity Department Chairman Pawan Khera described the demands as "legitimate and just", deserving "compassion and statesmanship, not neglect".

Calling the loss of "precious lives" both "tragic" and a "grim reminder" of the government's "failed promises", he recalled that in 2019 the BJP had assured Parliament that revoking Jammu and Kashmir's statehood would bring peace.

"Six years later, the trouble has only deepened. Far from restoring normalcy in the Valley, the Centre's short-sightedness has pushed Jammu and Ladakh into an incinerator of violence. This crisis is the BJP government's own creation – one it now seeks to unfairly ignore," he said.

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal asked whether India had gained independence from the British only to become "slaves of the BJP". He accused the ruling party of being "intoxicated by power" and of turning one state after another into union territories, thereby "snatching away" constitutional rights.

Highlighting that Ladakh's people were "only asking for their right to vote, the right to choose their government", Kejriwal alleged the BJP was "suppressing" their voice. "Despite repeated promises, they are not being given the right to vote... and when the government starts suppressing that very voice, it is the duty of the people to speak even louder. If we are to save the country's democracy, we can no longer remain silent against this dictatorship. Today, Ladakh's fight could become the fight of the entire country tomorrow," he added.

Condemning the "brutal repression" by the Ladakh administration, the CPI(M) Polit Bureau said people had launched a peaceful protest out of "frustration at the government's callous disregard" for their "legitimate demands". Instead of meaningful dialogue, it said, the government resorted to "forceful arrests", triggering widespread protests and unrest.

"Even after creating the circumstances responsible for this violence in a traditionally peaceful place, the central government is now blaming the agitators," it said.

OMAR ABDULLAH
Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister

"The government (in Ladakh) is theirs (BJP's). When they fail, they blame someone else. Had the Congress been so powerful that it could cause riots in Ladakh, why didn't the party form the council (in October 2020)? Who won the last council elections in Ladakh? The BJP, while the Congress lost badly. When things go wrong, the BJP people always come up with excuses."

Top court pulls up CBI, MP govt in custodial death case

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday expressed its discontent with the CBI and the MP government, with the suspension of police officials, who are accused in a custodial death case, yesterday, though they had been absconding since April.

"Officers are not coming to duty for so many months and you keep silent," a bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan said after they were informed that the two officers were suspended on Wednesday.

Having noted that the police officials had been absconding since April, the bench asked, "Why suspended yesterday? You say they have been absconding since April. This means you are protecting them. Now this is really contempt."

The bench asked the counsel, "You have been searching for them since April. Why haven't you suspended them? What is the meaning of this? All your efforts are eyewash."

The CBI counsel contended that they are trying to trace the financial transactions of police officials. The bench was informed that police officers' vehicles were being tracked on highway tolls.

The central agency's counsel said the social media accounts have been scrutinised and a cash reward has also been announced, but no fruitful results have emerged.

The court was hearing a contempt plea of the mother of the 24-year-old victim, alleging non-compliance with the top court's May 15 order, transferring the investigation from Madhya Pradesh Police to the CBI.

It has been alleged that local police attempted a cover-up besides influenced the probe into his death.

The court also asked the CBI counsel about the anticipatory bail hearing of the police officials. "Have you gone and spoken to the advocate who appeared for him? Wasn't the state involved in the anticipatory bail? What did the government pleader advise? They could have arrested him," the bench said.

H-1B visa fees: Cong seeks education loan deferment

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Congress' Lok Sabha whip Manickam Tagore has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to announce a five-year deferment on the repayment of education loans taken by Indian students who have to return from the United States without securing H-1B visas despite having job offers.

Tagore shot off a letter to Modi on Monday highlighting such students' concerns and said the support would bring much-needed relief to affected students and their families.

"Addressing their concerns at this crucial time will reflect the government's commitment to safeguarding the future of our youth," he said.

The letter came against the backdrop of the US increasing the fees for H-1B visas to $100,000 (around Rs 88 lakh).

Tagore urged the PM to issue directions to public and private sector banks to adopt a compassionate approach under RBI guidance.

India will buy oil from wherever it gets best deal: Shah

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

India will continue buying oil from wherever it gets the best rates, said Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday, amid the United States' objections to buying Russian crude and President Donald Trump imposing additional tariffs on New Delhi, besides hiking H-1B visa fees.

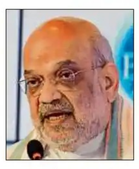
The Opposition has already taken a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the current India-US tariff standoff.

"Not specifically Russian oil, but India will continue buying oil from wherever it gets the best rates," said Shah, the BJP's chief strategist, in Mumbai during an interactive session hosted by a newspaper group.

Besides, he said, Indo-US trade negotiations were underway, and Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal was currently in the US.

"We can expect a decision in a couple of weeks... Things will be clear for you all to see," said Shah.

His statement came a day after US Energy Secretary Chris Wright argued that buying Russian crude indirectly funded atrocities in Ukraine.


Amit Shah

"We don't want to punish India. You can buy oil from every nation on Earth, just not Russian oil. That's our position. America has oil to sell, so does everybody else," said Wright in response to a question at the New York Foreign Press Centre.

Shah, while speaking on GST 2.0, hit out at the Congress-led UPA regime headed by late prime minister Manmohan Singh.

"Many from (Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha) Rahul Gandhi's party said GST was their idea. Then, why was it not implemented? They said the states opposed it. Their government was unable to give states the guarantee of growth. The Narendra Modi government came in and it guaranteed a 14% growth to states," he said.

India successfully tests Agni-Prime missile from rail-based launcher

Capable of moving on rail network without any preconditions

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India has successfully tested its intermediate-range Agni-Prime ballistic missile with a range of 2,000 km from a rail-based mobile launcher system as the first step to enable the armed forces to take the weapon anywhere with a railway network.

The first-of-its-kind launch under a full operational scenario was carried out on Sept 24 from a specially designed mobile launcher that can move on the railway network without any pre-conditions, defence ministry officials said.

The test by the Defence Research and Development Organisation in partnership with the Strategic Forces Command not only opens up the doors for the missile's cross-country mobility, but also allows the armed forces to launch the weapon within a short reaction time with reduced visibility.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the flight test put India in the group of select nations which have developed canisterised launch systems from the rail network.

"The first-of-its-kind launch carried out from specially designed rail-based mobile launcher has the capability to move on the rail network without any preconditions that allow the user to have cross-country mobility and launch within a short reaction time with reduced visibility," Rajnath said in a post.

The rail-based system is self-sustained and equipped with all independent launching systems, including state-of-the-art communication systems and protection mechanisms. "This will be a force multiplier to strategic forces, with a game changer road cum rail missile system," an official said.

Using the rail network, experts say, may have the additional advantage of storing the weapons inside railway tunnels.

The missile trajectory was tracked by various ground stations, which confirmed that it was a textbook launch meeting all mission objectives.

This successful launch would enable futuristic rail-based systems induction into services, a defence ministry official said. A road-mobile version of the missile has already been inducted.

The road-mobile version of the Agni-Prime missile was tested at least twice in the last two years after DRDO carried out three successful developmental trials.

The Agni-Prime missile with a range of 2,000 km is being test fired from a rail-based mobile launcher system. PTI

FIRST OF ITS KIND

- The Agni-Prime missile, with a range of 2,000 km, fired from a rail-based mobile launcher system.
- It has the capability to move on rail network without any pre-conditions
- The launch was carried out by DRDO
- The missile is equipped with all independent launch capability features, including the state-of-the-art communication systems and protection mechanisms.

Vivek Gupta is new INS president

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Vivek Gupta of "Sanmarg" has been elected president of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) for 2025-26.

Vivek Gupta

He was elected at the INS 86th Annual General Meeting (AGM), held on Thursday through video-conferencing and other audio-visual means. He succeeds M V Shreyams Kumar of "Mathrubhumi".

The AGM also confirmed other key appointments. Karan Rajendra Darda of "Lokmat" was elected deputy president, Tanmay Maheshwari of "Amar Ujala" was named vice-president, and Anant Nath of "Grihshobhika" was appointed honorary treasurer of the society for 2025-26.

MARINE CONSERVATION

Global recognition for India's 1st Dugong reserve

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Three years after the Tamil Nadu government notified a 448 square kilometre area in Thanjavur and Pudukkottai districts as the country's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay, the International Union for Conservation of Nature has recognised the move in one of the resolutions to be passed at its World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi.

The move to recognise the Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay – notified in 2022 – has been added as resolution number 25 in the conference to be held between October 9 and October 15. The resolution not only appreciates the move but also urges countries across the Indian Ocean to replicate this community-led model.

IUCN is a global membership union of government and civil society organisations that works to protect nature and advance sustainable development.

"This Global recognition spotlights the declaration of a 448.34 km² reserve as a critical step towards marine biodiversity conservation in South Asia and an exemplary model for dugong conservation globally," Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary (Environment and Forests), said.

Dugong dugon, a sea cow, is a large marine herbivorous mammal found in the shallow waters, inhabiting tropical and sub-tropical seagrass meadows on which they graze. Dugongs are protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, but their population is on the decline due to habitat loss.

In 2022, it was estimated that only 240 Dugong dugon are present across India, with the majority being found in Palk Bay in the Tamil Nadu coast. The endangered species lives within a 10-metre depth, not far from the shore, usually in groups of 5 to 7 individuals among the seagrass beds.

Officials said it was scientifically proven that the coastal areas of Thanjavur and Pudukottai districts in Palk Bay are covered by around 12,250 hectares of seagrass beds, and protecting seagrass beds and dugongs in this area. This will also aid in the breeding of commercially valuable finfishes, crabs, and shrimps, thereby benefiting thousands of small-scale and marginal fishermen who depend on fishery productivity for their daily livelihood in nearshore areas.

Dugongs can grow to a size of over 300 kgs, measuring 3.0 to 3.5 metres in length. Due to uncontrolled fishing carried out in the past and also due to a reduction in their grazing area, viz., the seagrass Cymodocea, their numbers have come down drastically.

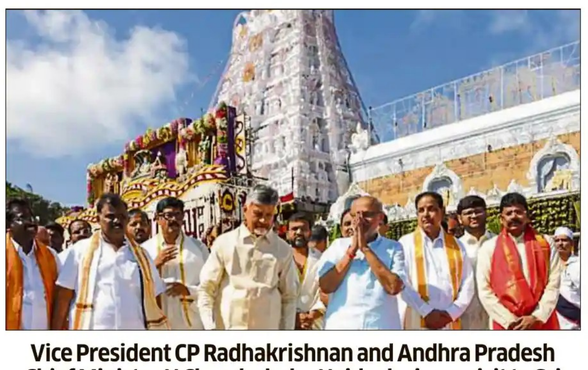
Tirumala gets AI-powered pilgrim command centre

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The Tirumala temple in Andhra Pradesh, the world's richest Hindu shrine, on Thursday unveiled India's first AI-powered pilgrim Integrated Command & Control Centre (ICCC). With approximately 4,500 pilgrims receiving darshan of Lord Venkateswara every hour, the facility marks a convergence of devotion and cutting-edge technology.

Built in just 16 days under a pro bono, donor-funded initiative by NRIs, the ICCC exemplifies seva without commercial intent. It consolidates live feeds from across Tirumala into a single command hub, making it the first temple ecosystem in India to integrate physical and cyber monitoring within an AI-driven framework.

The sophisticated AI infrastructure delivers comprehensive crowd management through predictive analytics that forecast sarva darshanam wait times, 3D congestion visualisation, and unified cyber threat monitoring to safeguard pilgrims and temple systems.


Vice President CP Radhakrishnan and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu during a visit to Sri Venkateswara Swami Temple in Tirupati. PTI

Over 6,000 AI cameras provide surveillance coverage while high-performance computing optimises queue flows. The platform processes an impressive 3,60,000 payloads every minute, handles 518 million events daily, and generates 2.5 billion real-time inferences.

After inaugurating the ICCC, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu advised TTD officials to reduce darshan waiting times for devotees.

Naidu emphasised maintaining strict vigilance at Alipiri gate to prevent the entry of liquor and prohibited items into Tirumala. He stressed that the command centre should properly manage devotee rush while monitoring cleanliness as a top priority.

Supreme Court upholds tribunal order, tells son to vacate dad's property

Rules eviction valid under senior citizens' welfare law

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A tribunal constituted under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, is well within its powers to order the eviction of a son or relative from a senior citizen's property if there is a breach of the obligation to maintain them, the Supreme Court said.

A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta allowed a plea filed by Kamalakant Mishra challenging a Bombay High Court order that had set aside the tribunal's directive to evict one of his three sons, a businessman, from properties Mishra had purchased in Mumbai. The HC had noted that the respondent was also a senior citizen.

Mishra, 80, and his wife, 78, had relocated to Uttar Pradesh, leaving their children behind in the Mumbai properties. Respondent No. 3, his eldest son, had taken possession of the properties and refused to allow Mishra to reside there.

Acting on Mishra's plea, the tribunal directed the eviction of his son and ordered the payment of Rs 3,000 to the appellant.

However, on the son's appeal, the HC held that the tribunal lacked jurisdiction to pass an eviction order against a senior citizen.

In allowing the appeal, the HC proceeded on the presumption that the respondent qualified as a senior citizen under Section 2(h) of the Act, given his date of birth, July 4, 1964. It observed that the tribunal could not entertain the appellant's complaint as it was filed against another senior citizen.

"This, in our view, is erroneous. The record shows that the appellant had moved an application before the tribunal on July 12, 2023, and at that point in time, the respondent's age was 59 years. The relevant date for consideration would be the date of filing the application before the tribunal," the bench said.

The court emphasised that the framework of the 2007 Act clearly indicates it was enacted to address the plight of older persons and ensure their care and protection.

"Being a welfare legislation, its provisions must be construed liberally to advance its beneficent purpose. This court has, on several occasions, observed that the tribunal is well within its powers to order the eviction of a child or relative from the property of a senior citizen when there is a breach of the obligation to maintain them," the SC added.

The court noted that, in the present case, despite being financially stable, the respondent had breached his statutory obligations by refusing to allow the appellant to reside in the properties he owned, thereby frustrating the very purpose of the Act.

UP: 'I love Mahadev' drive to counter rival posters

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Posters containing the slogan 'I love Mahadev (Lord Shiva)' appeared at several places, including temples and mutts, in Varanasi, on Thursday to what the Hindu seers said 'counter' the 'I love Mohammed' posters, which had appeared in many towns across the state in the past few days.

The 'I love Mahadev' posters were put up at many places by the 'Sanatan Sena', a saffron outfit, activists led by Jagadguru Shankaracharya Narendrananda.

"The saint community will respond to the fundamentalists through these posters," Narendrananda said. "We will not allow India to become Bangladesh or Nepal," he added.

The seers, who accompanied the Sena activists, said that some fundamentalist elements were trying to foment communal tension by 'I love Mohammed' posters and that they should be acted against.

The controversy began after some people put up a tent and pasted a poster containing 'I love Mohammed' during a procession being taken out on the occasion of 'Barawafat' earlier this month in Kanpur.

The police removed the tent and the poster, triggering a protest from the Muslim community. Police also registered an FIR against 24 people.

The controversy soon spread to the other towns in UP and also to some states, where similar posters appeared at public places, prompting police action.

Lt Col Purohit promoted after acquittal in Malegaon case

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Prasad Purohit

Indian Army officer Prasad Purohit — who was in July acquitted in the 2028 Malegaon blasts case — has been promoted to the rank of colonel.

"A few days ago, Purohit, who was a lieutenant colonel, was promoted to colonel," sources told *DH* on Thursday.

Union Textile Minister Giriraj Singh, in a message on X, posted a photo of the pipping ceremony and said: "Congratulations Col Purohit on being back in uniform. The government stands firmly with patriots who serve the nation with courage and integrity. [sic]"

Purohit was commissioned into the Maratha Light Infantry in 1994.

Between 2002 and 2005, he served in the counter-terrorism operations unit in J&K. He was later transferred to Military Intelligence and posted in Maharashtra's Nashik.

At the time of his arrest, he was studying Arabic at the Army Education Centre in Madhya Pradesh's Pachmarhi.

In the aftermath of the Navratri-eve blast coinciding with the month of Ramzan just two days before Eid on September 29, 2008, which claimed six lives and injured 101 others at Malegaon in the Nashik district, the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) of the Maharashtra Police arrested Purohit on November 4-5, after which he was placed under suspension. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) later took over the case.

Purohit was initially booked under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, but the charges were later dropped, and he was tried under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The Supreme Court granted him bail in 201,7after which he was attached to the Southern Command's Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Goa (MG&G) Area.

He is slated to retire next year at 54, the retirement age for Lt Cols and Cols.

On July 31, 2025, the NIA court acquitted all seven accused who stood trial — including Purohit.

Social media post triggers communal violence in Gujarat village; 60 detained

AHMEDABAD, PTI: A group of minority community members damaged several shops and vehicles and hurled stones at a village in Gandhinagar district following an objectionable social media post, police said on Thursday.

Police have detained around 60 persons from Bahiyal village for the clash and rioting that took place there late Wednesday night, officials said.

Four shops and five to six vehicles were damaged in the attack, they said.

"A social media post by a Hindu man on the ongoing trend 'I love Muhammad' enraged the minority community which led to the attack," Gandhinagar SP Ravi Teja Vasamsetty told reporters.

At around 11 pm on Wednesday, a large group broke the shutters of a shop belonging to the person who had put up a status on WhatsApp, which enraged the minority community members, he said.

"The group later hurled stones at Hindu areas. In retaliation, stones were pelted at the group from Hindu areas," the official said.

Heavy police security has been deployed and the situation has been brought under control, he said.

"Four shops and five to six vehicles were damaged," Assistant Superintendent of Police Ayush Jain told reporters.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER, OUR OFFICE IS HAVING A FUNNY T-SHIRT DAY
REALLY?! IN TODAY'S WORLD?
HA! HILARIOUS, BOSS!
I DECIDED ON A SERIOUS, MEANINGFUL MESSAGE!
THAT SHIRT IS SO YOU, DAG!
I ♥ MONEY
GARFIELD FOR PRESIDENT
6-20

Hagar The Horrible

I LOST FIVE POUNDS!
AND YOU DID IT WITHOUT GIVING UP SWEETS!
DON'T ACT LIKE TAKING THAT BATH WAS ANY BETTER!
THIS LOOKS LIKE MORE THAN FIVE POUNDS OF DIRT!

Beetle Bailey

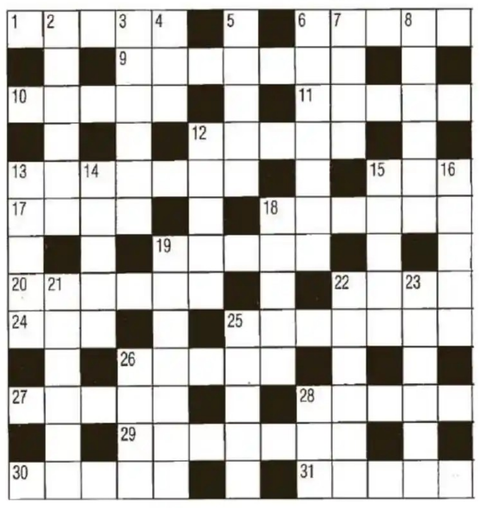
AMAZING! INCREDIBLE! FANTASTIC! UNBELIEVABLE!
WHAT ?
BEETLE DID SOME WORK!
HE EMPTIED YOUR WASTEBASKET ?!
DO YOU WANT IT ON THE FLOOR OR ON YOUR HEAD?!
GREG + MORT WALKER
6/7

Peanuts

I GOT AN "A" ON MY REPORT, SNOOPY!
BECAUSE YOU WERE SUCH A BIG HELP, I'M GOING TO TREAT YOU TO AN ICE-CREAM CONE
FORTY-NINE FLAVORS
YOU WEREN'T THAT BIG A HELP!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12255



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Supporters very useful to actors (5)
6 Cries: "Shoot at random!" (5)
9 Figures to go into town for a book (7)
10 Certificates of some description (5)
11 Taking a rest from being truthful (5)
12 Floral component in the form of a lacy cross (5)
13 Decoration of stone, possibly (7)
15 It doesn't take long to get dry (3)
17 Desire it for a companion (4)
18 In World War II, a victor in a very thorough way! (6)
19 A boaster's bloomer (5)
20 Join up with either 8 or 22 Down (6)
22 Members of an eleven (4)
24 Paternal army man (3)
25 Plants trees for a chap (7)
26 One can hardly make light of his villainy (5)
27 To fix something, I have to be in the right (5)
28 Noted duet arrangement, as from Chopin (5)
29 Imaginably apt to go up? How funny! (7)
30 Wine swilled by an unnamed comedian (5)
31 Though keen or cutting, it may be fine by the week-end (5)

DOWN
2 Something hard for a space traveller to shoot up (6)
3 On which to stand statuesquely, stonily staring (6)
4 Little man of the month? (3)
5 Where there's a point to gain, possibly (5)
6 Salvation Army crusade? (4,3)
7 Stone mostly derived from chalcedony (4)
8 Being bright, can upset little Leslie (6)
12 Roll down to the sea (5)
13 Punished a good number (5)
14 Reprove for having sold out the Conservative leader (5)
15 Deadly sins are so numerous! (5)
16 Categorise as a study group (5)
18 One of the pair we left incompletely finished (5)
19 Religious type, but he'd be acid if his self-starter went (7)
21 A name I have for being natural (6)
22 Attend to out-of-order inlets (6)
23 Golfed sportively with Bob (6)
25 Use of a veil? (5)
26 A champion may mean nothing to her (4)
28 Animal chewing some leeks (3)

ACROSS
1 Muscular pain (5)
6 Hit (5)
9 Previously (7)
10 Exhausted (5)
11 Dead language (5)
12 Danger (5)
13 Saunters (7)
15 Domestic fowl (3)
17 Rip (4)
18 Suitcase (6)
19 Black bird (5)
20 Expressed a view (6)
22 Dry (4)
24 Notebook (3)
25 Ship (7)
26 Tracks (5)
27 Biscuit (5)
28 Scope (5)
29 Take for granted (7)
30 Flower (5)
31 Snoops (5)

DOWN
2 Fame (6)
3 Adviser (6)
4 Affectionate tap (3)
5 Insects (5)
6 Aquatic bird (7)
7 Russian river (4)
8 Peals (6)
12 Implore (5)
13 Bend (5)
14 Quick (5)
15 Bees' homes (5)
16 At no time (5)
18 Swerves (5)
19 Wed again (7)
21 Country (6)
22 Cook gently (6)
23 Edit (6)
25 Conflict (5)
26 Agents, informally (4)
28 Unit of current (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12254

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, Mighty 7, Face ache 8,Tr-eat-y 10, En-em-y 13, Pr-e-y 14, Redo 15, No-ES 16, Pew 17, Dail 19, UFOs 21, Belly flop 23, Dumb 24, Gets 26, Had 27, Eton 29, Skis 32, Bran 33, Feint 34, C-heats 35,Tyne-side 36, Odd-ity.
DOWN: 1, Af-t-er 2, A-c-Ted 3, Baby 4, Me-T-re 5, Grey 6,Tithes 9, Result 11, New 12, Modem 13, Poly-gon 15, Ni-l 16, Pop 18, Al-Bert 20, Fosse (Way) 21, Bud 22, F-EN 23, Dashed 25, Win 28,Ta-sty 30, Kiwis 31, Strew 32, Bali 33, F-eel.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Fibula 7, All in all 8, Odious 10, Cheap 13, More 14, Hand 15, Dodo 16, Sew 17, Main 19, Oral 21, Kidnapped 23, Veto 24, Rise 26, Coy 27, Nice 29, Knot 32, Fish 33, Osier 34, Duress 35, Untested 36, Needle.
DOWN: 1, Hatch 2, Alien 3, Snip 4, Flood 5, Brie 6, Laurel 9, Droops 11, Hay 12, Admit 13, Monarch 15, Din 16, Sad 18, Adonis 20, Reeks 21, Key 22, Pie 23, Volume 25,Toe 28, Issue 30, Nifty 31,Trade 32, Feud 33, Open.

◆SU-DO-KU-6711◆

			7		9		4	
		7		4		6		
3			1	2		5	9	
	5	8			3			
	6	2	5		4	8	7	
			6			4	2	
	4	5		1	7			2
		1		6		7		
	2		3		8			

easy

SOLUTION TO 6710

1	9	2	4	5	8	3	7	6
8	5	6	7	9	3	4	1	2
4	3	7	1	6	2	8	9	5
5	2	4	9	1	7	6	3	8
7	6	8	3	4	5	1	2	9
3	1	9	8	2	6	7	5	4
9	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	4	3	5	7	9	2	8	1
2	7	5	6	8	1	9	4	3

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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E1	N1	M3	I1	A1	S1	R1	3rd Letter Double	RACK 1
V4	L1	O1	V4	N1	E1	I1		RACK 2
L1	W4	S1	S1	U1	A1	H4	Double Word Score	RACK 3
U1	U1	T1	S1	G2	T1	Y4		RACK 4

PAR SCORE 100-110
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

K5	I1	L1	L1	D2	E1	E1	RACK 1 =	72
I1	M3	I1	D2	E1			RACK 2 =	24
D2	E1	B3	A1	C3	L1	E1	RACK 3 =	86
I1	N1	S1	P3	I1	R1	E1	RACK 4 =	59
							JUDD'S TOTAL	241

PAR SCORE 155-165

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RUCTO
CRDOH
LDEUSG
LBBEBO

You are my hero! You are my newest son now.
It was my honor to help.
I can't imagine a better friend! Thank You!
3/20
THOUGH NOT RELATED, AFTER DONATING A KIDNEY TO HIS FRIEND, THEY BECAME ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: QUEST BRISK HINDER SONATA
Answer: The glove and mitten factory employees met to discuss the — BUSINESS AT HAND

HITORI-3165

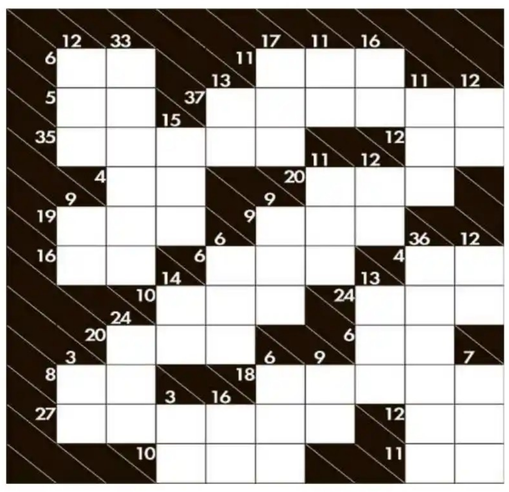
4	4	3	2	5	6	8	5
1	3	4	8	5	3	2	4
4	8	4	4	7	2	6	3
5	2	3	7	4	1	3	4
2	7	8	3	1	1	3	2
3	6	4	1	3	7	4	8
3	5	1	4	6	8	7	2
8	4	2	5	4	3	7	2

SOLUTION TO 3164

8	4	3	■	6	1	■	5
■	5	2	4	■	8	6	7
6	■	5	7	2	■	3	■
3	8	■	6	5	4	7	1
7	■	4	3	■	2	8	■
4	7	■	2	3	■	5	6
2	3	8	5	■	6	4	■
5	■	6	■	4	7	1	2

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

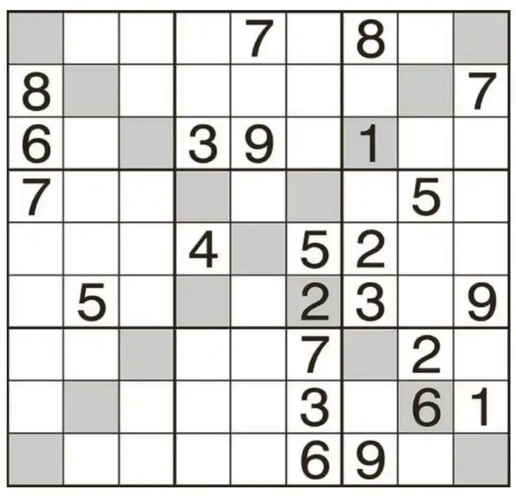
KAKURO- 3165



SOLUTION TO 3164

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3688



SOLUTION TO 3687

9	6	2	4	8	3	5	7	1
5	4	3	1	7	9	2	6	8
7	1	8	2	5	6	4	3	9
3	8	9	5	4	7	1	2	6
6	2	4	9	3	1	7	8	5
1	5	7	8	6	2	9	4	3
4	7	5	3	1	8	6	9	2
8	9	6	7	2	5	3	1	4
2	3	1	6	9	4	8	5	7

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

India's decision to host Hasina contributed to tensions in ties: Yunus

Bangladesh's interim leader calls for SAARC revival

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The head of the interim government in Dhaka, Muhammad Yunus, said that relations between India and Bangladesh had come under stress because New Delhi had disapproved of the way the youths of his country had overthrown the Awami League government led by Sheikh Hasina in August 2024.

Yunus said in New York that India's decision to host Sheikh Hasina after her escape from Bangladesh had also contributed to tensions in bilateral relations. He alleged that India's portrayal of the regime change in Bangladesh had gone so far as to label him a Taliban. He tacitly accused New Delhi of stalling the SAARC and called for its revival.

He met Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Sri Lankan President Anura Dissanayake on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

"We have problems with India right now because they did not like what the students have done in Bangladesh," Yunus said at an event in New York. "They are hosting Hasina, the former prime minister who created all these problems... and killed the young people. That creates a lot of tension between India and Bangladesh."

An agitation by students and youths against job reservations in June and July last year had escalated into a mass uprising, as Hasina's Awami League government launched a nationwide crackdown on the protesters.

Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana, and some of her aides had flown on board a military aircraft to the Indian Air Force base at Hindon near New Delhi on 5 August 2024, shortly before mobs of protesters stormed her official residence, Gana Bhavan, in Dhaka.

Yunus took over as chief advisor of the interim government on 8 August 2024. New Delhi has not yet responded to the request of the interim government in Dhaka for the extradition of Sheikh Hasina from India to stand trial in Bangladesh.

"Lots of fake news is coming from the other side (India), making all kinds of propaganda that this was an Islamist movement which has taken over Bangladesh. They say I am a Taliban too," said Yunus.

He again stressed reviving the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), comparing its potential to the European Union. "One of the first things... let's revive SAARC. It's a wonderful idea. We can visit each other; we don't need a visa to cross into each other. We can do business. We can settle down in any country in South Asia. SAARC is not working because it doesn't fit into the politics of one country," he said, targeting India with a not-so-subtle jibe.

India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives are members of SAARC, which was established in 1985. After back-to-back terror attacks in India by outfits based in Pakistan, Modi declined to attend the 19th SAARC summit that his then-counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, was to host in Islamabad in November 2016.

China announces its first emission cut targets

Largest carbon polluting nation signals policy change

UNITED NATIONS, AP/PTI

With China leading the way by announcing its first emission cuts, world leaders signalled on Wednesday that they are taking climate change and its deadly extreme weather more seriously.

At the United Nations high-level climate summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping said the world's largest carbon-polluting country would aim to cut emissions by 7% to 10% by 2035. China produces more than 31% of global carbon dioxide emissions, which have long been rising. The announcement came as more than 100 world leaders gathered to stress the growing urgency of curbing heat-trapping gases.

With major international climate negotiations in Brazil just six-and-a-half weeks away, UN Secretary-General António Guterres convened a special summit during the General Assembly to focus on concrete plans to cut emissions from coal, oil and natural gas.

In a video address, Xi pledged that China would expand wind and solar power sixfold from 2020 levels, make pollution-free vehicles mainstream and "basically establish a climate-adaptive society".

Europe followed with a less detailed plan. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said renewable energy investment and carbon pricing had increased, while emissions are down nearly 40% since 1940.

Member states last week agreed their nationally determined contribution would range between 66% and 72%, to be formally submitted before November's talks. Xi and Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva both took veiled swipes at US President Donald Trump's criticism of renewable energy and climate action a day earlier. "While some country is acting against it, the international community should stay focused on the right direction," Xi said.

XI JINPING
Chinese President

"While some country is acting against it (renewable energy), the international community should stay focused on the right direction

Lula, who will host the upcoming climate conference, warned: "No one is safe from the effect of climate change. Walls at borders will not stop droughts or storms. Nature does not bow down to bombs or warships. No country stands above another."

Guterres told leaders: "The science demands action. The law commands it. The economics compel it. And people are calling for it."

Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine issued "a demand for us all to wake up" from a community where hospitals and schools are being destroyed by rising tides. She said floods and drought emergencies already haunt her island nation and warned: "If we fail to wake up now and end our dependence on fossil fuels, the leaders of every country in this room will be woken up by calls about catastrophes of wildfires, storms, heatwaves, starvation and drought."

Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif echoed the warning, citing recent floods that hit 5 million people across 4,000 villages and killed more than 1,000.

Palestinians fleeing northern Gaza, due to an Israeli military operation, move southward after Israeli forces ordered residents of Gaza City to evacuate on Thursday. REUTERS

Trump won't allow Israel to annex West Bank, say officials

TEL AVIV, NYT NEWS SERVICE

US President Donald Trump assured leaders of Arab and Muslim-majority nations this week that he would not allow Israel to annex the Israeli-occupied West Bank, according to three people familiar with the matter.

Israeli officials have suggested in recent weeks that their government could annex at least part of the West Bank in retaliation for decisions by several countries, including Britain, Canada and France, to recognise a Palestinian state.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel has faced growing calls from right-wing allies to extend sovereignty over the West Bank. On Sunday, Itamar Ben-Gvir, a far-right minister, called for the government to adopt the measure "immediately."

Trump offered assurances on annexation during a meeting on Tuesday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, according to the three people familiar with the matter, including an Arab official. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive details.

The meeting included the president of Turkey, the emir of Qatar, the king of Jordan, the foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates, the prime minister of Egypt, and other regional and Muslim leaders.

President Emmanuel Macron of France told France 24 and Radio France Internationale on Wednesday that Trump agreed with him that Israel's expansion of settlements in the West Bank was counterproductive and had "nothing to do with Hamas." Macron and Trump met on the sidelines of the General Assembly.

The possibility of annexation has prompted rebuke in the Arab world. Palestinian leaders in the West Bank, and much of the world, have long envisioned that the territory would form part of a future independent Palestine.

About 3 million Palestinians live in the West Bank, which Israel has controlled since the Arab-Israeli war of 1967.

Sarkozy sentenced to 5 years in Libya funding case

PARIS, AP/PTI

A Paris court sentenced former French President Nicolas Sarkozy to five years in prison and — in a major surprise — said he will be incarcerated even if he appeals, after finding him guilty on Thursday in his trial for alleged illegal campaign financing by Libya.

The court said the date of his incarceration will be decided later, sparing the 70-year-old the humiliation of being marched out of the courtroom by police officers and taken straight to prison.

The court found Sarkozy guilty of criminal association in a plot from 2005 to 2007 to finance his campaign with funds from Libya in exchange for diplomatic favours. But it cleared him of three other charges — including passive corruption, illegal campaign financing and concealment of the embezzlement of public funds. The court also found two of Sarkozy's closest associates when he was president — former ministers Claude Guéant and Brice Hortefeux — guilty of criminal association, but likewise acquitted them of some other charges.

Nicolas Sarkozy reacts after the court verdict in Paris on Thursday. REUTERS

Overall, the ruling suggested that the court believed the men conspired to seek Libyan funding for Sarkozy's 2007 campaign, but that judges were not convinced the conservative leader himself was directly involved in the funding effort. Sarkozy, who lost his bid for re-election in 2012, denied all wrongdoing.

Amazon fined $2.5 bn for 'tricking' customers

SEATTLE, AP/PTI: Amazon has reached a historic $2.5 billion settlement with the Federal Trade Commission, which said the online retail giant tricked customers into signing up for its Prime memberships and made it difficult for them to cancel it.

The Seattle company will pay $1 billion in civil penalties — the largest FTC fine in FTC's history, and $1.5 billion will be paid to consumers who were unintentionally enrolled in Prime, or were deterred from cancelling their subscriptions, the agency said on Thursday.

Hegseth abruptly summons top US military commanders

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth has summoned the military's top officers — hundreds of generals and admirals — to a base in northern Virginia for a sudden meeting next week, according to two people familiar with the matter.

The directive did not offer a reason for the gathering Tuesday of senior commanders of the one-star rank or higher and their top advisers at the Marine Corps base in Quantico.

The people, who described the move as unusual, were not authorised to publicly discuss the sensitive plans and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Terrorism 'persistent threat' to development: Jaishankar

UNITED NATIONS, PTI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said that terrorism remains a "persistent threat" to development and stressed that the world must show neither tolerance nor accommodation to terrorist activities.

Addressing the G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting here, Jaishankar said those who act against terrorists on any front render a "larger service to the international community as a whole". Speaking on the correlation between international peace and global development, he said that in recent times, both deteriorated in parallel.

"A persistent threat to development is that perennial disruptor of peace - terrorism," he said, adding, "It is imperative that the world display neither tolerance nor accommodation to terrorist activities."

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar speaks at the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New York City. PTI

As the world confronts conflict, economic pressures and terrorism, the limitations of multilateralism and the United Nations are visible, Jaishankar said. "The need for reforming multilateralism has never been greater," he said, adding that today, the international situation is both politically and economically volatile. "We as members of G20 have a particular responsibility to strengthen its stability and give it a more positive direction that is best done by undertaking dialogue and diplomacy, by firmly combating terrorism, and by appreciating the need for stronger energy and economic security."

Speaking on peace and global development, he said ongoing conflicts, particularly in Ukraine and Gaza, have starkly demonstrated the costs, especially to the Global South, in terms of energy, food and fertiliser security. "Apart from jeopardising supplies and logistics, access and cost themselves became pressure points on nations," he said.

Diljit Dosanjh bags Emmy nod for 'Amar Singh Chamkila'

NEW DELHI, PTI: Actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh on Thursday earned a nomination at the International Emmy Awards 2025 in the Best Performance by an Actor category for his role in filmmaker Imtiaz Ali's acclaimed biopic "Amar Singh Chamkila".

Ali's directorial effort also received another nomination, being recognised in the TV movie/mini-series category.

The International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences announced the nominations in New York, with the film emerging as the lone Indian entry.

Produced by Window Seat Films, the Netflix movie features Dosanjh in the titular role of the Punjabi singer who was shot dead in 1988 along with his singer-wife Amarjot, played by Parineeti Chopra.

In the Best Actor category, Dosanjh will compete against David Mitchell for "Ludwig" (United Kingdom), Oriol Pla for "Yo, adicto" (Spain), and Diego Vasquez for "One Hundred Years of Solitude" (Colombia).

The film will vie for the TV movie/mini-series award alongside "Herrhausen: The Banker and the Bomb" (Germany), "Lost Boys & Fairies" (United Kingdom) and "Vencer o Morir" (Chile).

The winners will be declared at the 53rd International Emmy Awards gala, scheduled to be held in New York City on November 24.

According to a press release by the International Academy, the nominations feature 64 nominees across 16 categories, spanning a record 26 countries.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

A robot (right) guides a car inside Toyota Motor Corporation's "Woven City" in the city of Susono, Japan, on Thursday. Toyota's new tech village is an experimental project to test futuristic gadgets. AFP

Trump alleges 'triple sabotage' during visit to UN headquarters

▸ US President Donald Trump has demanded an investigation into three "sinister events" at the United Nations headquarters, including an escalator breaking down while he and First Lady Melania Trump were on it, describing them as "triple sabotage", PTI reports from New York/ Washington.

In a post on Truth Social on Wednesday, he also said the UN should be "ashamed" of itself. "A real disgrace took place at the United Nations yesterday — not one, not two, but three very sinister events!" Trump said. The first incident occurred when the escalator going up to the main speaking floor came to a "screeching halt" shortly after the First Lady and the Trumps stepped onto it. Then, as Trump took the UNGA podium to deliver his address to the General Debate of the 80th UN General Assembly session, the teleprompter failed. Thirdly, Trump said that after he finished speaking, he was told that the sound in the UN General Assembly hall had been completely off and world leaders could not hear him unless they used interpreters' earpieces.

Nepal PM vows to act tough

▸ Nepalese Prime Minister Sushila Karki on Thursday said that the government is committed to taking stern action against those responsible for the death of 74 people, including students, during the Gen Z protests, PTI reports from Kathmandu.

In her first televised address to the nation after assuming the post of caretaker Prime Minister, Karki said the government has already started work related to conducting the Parliamentary election on March 5, as per the mandate given to the government. She called on all sections of the society to cooperate in maintaining a law and order situation and creating a conducive environment for conducting free, fair and impartial elections. PM Karki made it clear that the government is not mandated to amend the constitution and to alter the system of governance.

Members of Russian youth military-patriotic clubs take part in competitions during the Military-Patriotic Festival in St Petersburg on Thursday. AFP

Typhoon batters Hong Kong

▸ Typhoon Ragasa, one of the strongest storms to hit Asia in years, whipped waves taller than lampposts onto Hong Kong promenades and turned seas rough on the southern Chinese coast after leaving deadly destruction in Taiwan and the Philippines, AP/PTI reports from Shenzhen.

In Taiwan, 17 people died on Wednesday after floods submerged roads and carried away vehicles in one county, and 10 deaths were reported in the northern Philippines. More than 2 million people were relocated across Guangdong province, the southern Chinese economic powerhouse. A weather station in Chuandao town recorded maximum gusts of 241 kph at noon, a high in Jiangmen city since record-keeping began.

Drones disrupt Danish airports

▸ Denmark has informed its allies that drone incursions that have briefly closed airports and affected military installations in the country are linked to another country, Reuters reports from the United Nations.

"The Danish government said it's a state activity that operates it," Latvia's Foreign Minister Baiba Braze told Reuters on Thursday in an interview. "So we will wait for further assessments from our Danish colleagues, but it's very clear on allies' side, on our side, we all have to invest in counter-drone capability." Denmark's foreign ministry did not immediately reply to a request for comment. Denmark said the incidents were hybrid attacks aimed at spreading fear, though authorities could not identify the perpetrators.

Cosplayers dressed as Deadpool perform with a visitor for a picture during the San Diego Comic-Con in Malaga, Spain on Thursday. REUTERS

Startups grapple with 23% drop in funding this year

Yet, the sector in India is the third-highest funded globally

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Tech startups in the country have raised only $7.7 billion between January and September (9 months) this year, a 23% decline from $10.1 billion drawn in the same period last year and a 6% drop from the $8.3 billion in the matching timeline in 2023. With macroeconomic uncertainty leading to reduced venture capital, startups have been struggling to raise funds for some quarters now.

Market intelligence platform Tracxn, in its latest India Tech Funding report, revealed that funding trends varied across stages, but largely reflected downtrend from the comparable periods in the previous two years. Seed stage funding witnessed a total of $727 million, a 39% shrinkage from the $1.2 billion picked up in 2024, and 34% from $1.1 billion in 2023 (in the matching periods). Early stage funding stood at $2.7 billion, slipping 10% from $3.0 billion in the first nine months of 2024, but on par with 2023 levels. Late-stage funding raised a total of $4.3 billion, a 27% decline from $5.9 billion in the similar period of 2024, and a 4% slip compared to $4.5 billion raised in 2023.

However, the report pointed out that the country is the third-highest funded globally, ahead of Germany and France, and behind the US and the UK.

Neha Singh, co-founder of Tracxn, said, "India climbing to the 3rd rank globally reflects the resilience and adaptability of our startup ecosystem. What we are witnessing is a clear shift toward maturity, with rising acquisitions, steady IPO activity, and continued unicorn creation providing balanced exit pathways for founders and investors. At the same time, sectors such as enterprise applications, retail, and transportation & logistics tech are driving long-term investor confidence and fueling India's digital transformation."

January to September 2025 (till September 22) witnessed 10 $100 million funding rounds, compared to 16 in 2024 and 15 in 2023.

The report highlights that enterprise applications, retail, and transportation & logistics tech were the top-performing sectors during this period. Enterprise applications received $2.3 billion, a 6% decrease compared to $2.5 billion raised in 2024, but a 2% increase compared to $2.2 billion raised in 2023. Retail received $2.0 billion in funding, an 18% decline compared to $2.4 billion raised in 2024, but a 15% rise compared to $1.7 billion raised in 2023.

In terms of exits, 110 acquisitions took place during this period, a 15% increase over 96 in 2024 and a drop of 5% compared to 116 acquisitions in 2023. The largest deal was Resulticks' $2.0 billion acquisition by Diginex.

Interestingly, there were 4 unicorns created in the period, compared to 5 in 2024 and 1 in 2023. India is now home to 122 unicorns, of which 22 have already exited through IPOs or acquisitions, the report said.

Bengaluru continues to dominate the country's unicorn landscape, hosting 53 unicorns, followed by Gurugram (20) and Mumbai (18).

GST reforms will continue; rates may come down further: PM

Indian economy resilient because of bold structural reforms: FM

PM Narendra Modi at the inauguration of 'Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show 2025', in Greater Noida, on Thursday. PHOTO: PTI

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The process of goods and services tax (GST) reforms will continue and the tax rates would be lowered further as the economy strengthens, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, days after implementation of the next-generation reforms in the country's indirect tax system.

Speaking at Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show 2025 in Greater Noida, the Prime Minister said the structural reforms in GST, which came into effect from September 22, would "give new wings to India's growth story".

"In 2017, we introduced GST that strengthened the economy. And in 2025 we have brought (GST 2.0) again, will strengthen the economy again. As the economy strengthens, the tax burden will reduce," Modi said.

"I want to tell you that we are not going to stop here," the Prime Minister remarked, indicating further reforms and reduction in GST rates in the coming years.

The next generation reform of GST with significantly lower rates has been implemented from September 22. GST slabs have been rationalised to two major rates 5% and 18% from earlier four main slab rates of 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%. Majority of the items of daily households, including FMCG and durables, are now in the 5% GST bracket.

SBI Research said in a note that the reduction in GST tax rate and income tax relief announced in the Union Budget in February, will lead to a consumption boost of Rs 5.5 lakh crore.

"Today, by making income of Rs 12 lakh tax free and the new GST reform, the people of the country are going to save Rs 2.5 lakh crore this year. Rs 2.5 lakh crore will be saved in the pockets of the countrymen," Modi said.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said India's economy remains resilient because of the bold structural reforms introduced by the government.

She said the next generation GST reform has prioritised the common man.

"Amidst this uncertain global environment, India's resilience stands out. Several favourable factors, such as strong macroeconomic fundamentals, a young demography and greater reliance on domestic demand, provide core strength to the Indian economy to withstand global spillovers and grow at a higher aspirational trajectory," Sitharaman said at Bank of Maharashtra's 91st Foundation Day event in Pune.

Referring to the recent upgrade of India's sovereign ratings, the Finance Minister said it is the reflection of proactive fiscal and monetary policies, bold structural reforms, massive infrastructure creation and improved governance.

Global rating agencies S&P, Morningstar DBRS and Rating and Investment Information, Inc. (R&I) have upgraded India's sovereign credit ratings recently citing strong domestic demand and fiscal discipline.

'India's CSR spend to treble to over 1.2 lakh crore by 2035'

MUMBAI, DHNS

Most of the social welfare funding comes from govt presently.

A decade after corporate social responsibility (CSR) was written into law, the spending is projected to treble by 2035 and exceed Rs 1.2 lakh crore annually – making it the largest pool of philanthropic capital in the country.

This presents a historic opportunity - to reimagine CSR as investment capital to drive systemic change. This is one of the several insights presented by a report - India Inc. for Building Bharat: How Systemic CSR is Building Enduring Impact for Tomorrow - by the Convergence Foundation (TCF) and its network organisation SCALE, along with India Impact Sherpas.

CSR spend in FY24 was Rs 30,000 crore, leaving the government to shoulder most of the country's Rs 25.7 lakh crore annual social sector spend - 8% of its GDP.

The report, released in Mumbai on Wednesday, projecting the expected growth of the CSR funding pool in the next 10 years, argued that CSR can inform government expenditure by enabling innovation among Systems Support Organisations – an emerging cadre of nonprofit outfits which work on finding systemic solutions and provide strategic support to governments.

"CEOs can set a bold vision by treating CSR as a long-term investment that creates non-linear social returns. To create large-scale impact, hiring a strong CSR leader with a genuine commitment to social impact is one of the most important decisions a business leader can make," said Ashish Dhawan, Founder-CEO of The Convergence Foundation.

"A company's CSR can be treated as a portfolio, including a mix of direct, programmatic initiatives, and more systemic initiatives which tackles root causes of social issues. As the corpus of CSR grows in the next few years, companies can aspire to allocate 10-20% of their portfolio towards long-term bets on systemic initiatives," Dhawan said.

"CSR has matured significantly over the last few years, particularly since becoming a legal mandate in 2013. In its second innings over the next decade, there is an opportunity to use CSR as a strategic investment and act as a vehicle for transformative change", said Govind Iyer, Chair of the CSR Committee at Infosys, and a member of the advisory board at TCF.

"This report has spotlighted the journeys of 13 select CSR foundations, creating a powerful precedent that systemic impact is possible through CSR. There are many actionable learnings from the profiled models which are applicable to a wider business and CSR agenda", he said.

CBDT extends tax audit filing due date to October 31

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The deadline for filing tax audit reports for businesses and professionals for the financial year 2024-25 (assessment year 2025-26) has been extended by a month from September 30 to October 31, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said on Thursday.

The move comes after tax practitioners' lobby moved to the courts, including the Karnataka High Court and the Delhi High Court, seeking extension of dates citing multiple challenges like technical glitches in the Income Tax portal, disruptions caused by floods and festival-related travel.

"Keeping in view the representation of the Tax practitioners and their submissions before the Hon'ble Courts, the 'specified date' for furnishing of the report of audit under any provision of the Income-tax Act, 1961, for the Previous Year 2024-25 (Assessment Year 2025-26), in the case of assessees referred to in clause (a) of Explanation 2 to sub-section (1) of section 139 of the Act is extended from September 30, 2025 to October 31, 2025," the CBDT said in a statement.

As per the statement released by the Union Finance Ministry, the CBDT has received representations from various professional associations, including Chartered Accountant bodies, "highlighting certain difficulties being faced by taxpayers and practitioners in timely completion of audit report."

The reasons cited in these representations include disruptions caused by floods and natural calamities in certain parts of the country, which have impeded normal business and professional activity. This matter has also come up before High Courts, it said.

However, the ministry claimed that the "Income-tax e-filing portal has been operating smoothly and without any technical glitches and the Tax Audit Reports are being uploaded successfully."

"The system is stable and fully functional, enabling submission of various statutory forms and reports," it added.

Accenture posts fourth quarter revenue above estimates

REUTERS: Accenture on Thursday reported fourth-quarter revenue slightly above Wall Street estimates, driven by resilient demand from enterprise clients for its AI-driven consulting and services.

Shares of the Dublin-based company were up 3.7% in choppy premarket trading.

Businesses are scaling up AI projects, digitizing core operations and prioritizing data security to drive growth and cut costs, trends that benefit Accenture.

The company recorded new bookings of $21.3 billion for the quarter.

The company posted fourth-quarter revenue of $17.6 billion, beating analysts' average estimate of $17.36 billion, according to data compiled by LSEG.

'AI agents present a transformative opportunity'

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Salesforce South Asia, President-CEO Arundhati Bhattacharya.

Artificial intelligence (AI) skills are very much in demand, and AI agents present a transformative opportunity to reimagine how the government serves its citizens, said Arundhati Bhattacharya, President and CEO, Salesforce - South Asia.

On Thursday, Salesforce released its findings that highlighted overwhelming public support for AI agents. It said Indias are ready for AI-powered public services.

Salesforce recently launched Agentforce for Public Sector to augment government workers with digital labour.

Bhattacharya said by automating high-volume, routine interactions, AI agents can free public servants to focus on what humans do best: applying empathy, creativity, and expertise to complex cases.

"The result is a digital workforce that augments human potential, enabling governments to deliver citizen experiences that are more responsive, trusted, and impactful at scale," she added.

According to the findings, 86% of Indian constituents expect the government to proactively offer more relevant services. The most important improvements the public sector can make to its service delivery include offering 24/7 support, responding faster to citizen needs, and improving data security.

Talking about the need for upskilling and how certain roles are becoming outdated, she said the roles that are impacted, are roles where the technology is now no longer relevant. "Technology is also undergoing a lot of change. And roles that become relevant are roles that will give you a better insight into the customer's mind, so that you can create those use cases where the customer would be able to respond," she said.

"AI skills are very much in demand. But one very good thing that has happened, in middle class Indian households is that people are no longer saying that you just have to be an engineer or a doctor. There are so many other things that we can do, and this has been a big shift as well," she added.

As per the findings, Indians also want concerns around data security and the loss of human connection to be addressed in order to be comfortable with the technology.

New rules for authenticating payments to kick-in from Apr 2026

MUMBAI, PTI: The Reserve Bank on Thursday announced that new rules on digital payments, which allow for more ways to comply with the Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) beyond the SMS-based one-time password, will come into effect on April 1.

The factors of authentication can be from "something the user has", "something the user knows" or "something the user is" and may comprise, inter-alia, password, SMS-based OTP, passphrase, PIN, card hardware, software token, fingerprint, or any other form of biometrics (device native or Aadhaar-based), the central bank said.

India is among the markets in the world which insist on 2FA, and financial sector players have been relying on the SMS-based alerts to execute transactions. The RBI launched the (Authentication mechanisms for digital payment transactions) Directions, 2025, making it clear that 2FA will continue to be mandatory and SMS OTP can also be used.

The central bank had first announced the move in February 2024.

Oyo to tap banks for $800 mn IPO

BLOOMBERG: Oravel Stays Ltd., the SoftBank Group Corp.-backed company that operates Oyo Hotels, has hired several banks to arrange an initial public offering that may fetch as much as $800 million in Mumbai, according to people familiar with the matter. The company, commonly known as Oyo, is working with Axis Bank Ltd., ICICI Securities Ltd., as well as the Indian units of Goldman Sachs Group Inc and Citigroup Inc on the share sale, the people said

Amazon festival clocks over 38 crore visits in 2 days

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Amazon Great Indian Festival has attracted over 38 crore customer visits in the first two days. The festival, which opened for Prime members on September 22 and for all customers on September 23, saw over 70% of customer visits coming from beyond the top 9 metros.

"Customers enjoyed savings with GST benefits, access to more than 1 lakh products at the lowest prices and over 30,000 new products launched across categories including smartphones, laptops, TVs, fashion and beauty, home décor, appliances, furniture and groceries from top brands such as Apple, Samsung, OnePlus, IQOO, and Sony, among others," the ecommerce company said.

"The Amazon Great Indian Festival 2025 is seeing a record-breaking start. The first 48 hours have been our biggest ever, with an unprecedented 38 crore customer visits and the highest number of Prime members shopping during Prime Early Access," said Saurabh Srivastava, Vice President, Amazon India.

"The #GSTBachatUtsav initiative has been incredibly well-received, with sellers passing on GST benefits worth crores in just 48 hours through our dedicated storefront featuring home appliances, electronics, daily essentials, healthcare, fashion, and more," he added.

Bharti-Warburg JV to raise $450 mn debt for Haier stake buyout

MUMBAI, REUTERS: A joint venture between Bharti Enterprises and private equity firm Warburg Pincus is looking to raise Rs 4,000 crore ($451 million) through the sale of bonds in the next quarter, three sources aware of the matter said on Thursday.

The Bharti-Warburg joint entity will likely offer a coupon of 11%-12%, and is expected to attract demand from large mutual funds as well as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), the sources said.

Kotak Investment Bank is the arranger for the deal, they said. The sources requested anonymity as they are not authorised to speak to media. Bharti Enterprises, Warburg Pincus, Haier and Kotak Mahindra Bank did not immediately respond to Reuters emails seeking comment.

In July, local media reported that the duo jointly bid $720 million for a 49% stake in the Indian arm of Haier, a Chinese electronics maker. The bond issue adds to a rising trend of firms tapping the corporate bond market for funding large acquisitions.

UK's Nothing to expand production in India through $100 mn JV

REUTERS: London-based smartphone maker Nothing has signed a joint venture with Optiemus Infracom to expand manufacturing in India, the company said on Thursday.

Under the deal, Nothing and Optiemus will invest more than $100 million and create over 1,800 jobs in the world's second-largest mobile phone manufacturer over the next three years, the company said, adding that it had already invested more than $200 million in the country.

It did not give details on where the facility would be located and its production capacity.

Nothing, founded in 2020 by the Swedish entrepreneur Carl Pei, launched its first smartphone in 2022, and has since expanded into earbuds and other devices.

In July, Pei said the company was the fastest-growing smartphone brand in India, with a more than two-fold year-over-year growth in shipments in the second quarter.

Nothing has at least one other facility in Chennai, south India, that manufactures its smartphones, including the flagship Nothing Phone (3).

Optiemus Infracom, based in north India's Noida, is an electronics manufacturer for global smartphone brands like OnePlus and Realme.

PRIMARY MARKET

Sept to be the busiest month for IPOs in nearly three decades

BLOOMBERG

India could see 25 companies launch their IPOs in September on the nation's main exchange board, making it the busiest month for such kind of deals in nearly three decades.

More precisely, it would be the highest since there were 28 in January 1997, according to primedatabase.com. Of the ones this month, 15 companies have collectively raised nearly $1 billion, while the remaining 10 are are expected to raise an a total of about $500 million, according to India's National Stock Exchange.

It's an annual ritual for Indian firms to try to cram in their IPOs by the end of September because dragging their deals into October would force them to audit an extra set of earnings, then update them into their draft prospectuses. But this year's batch of last-minute entries is unusually high thanks to a confluence of tailwinds, according to Dharmesh Mehta, CEO at DAM Capital.

Mehta cited robust business prospects, buoyant equity capital markets, attractive valuations and ample domestic liquidity for driving so many firms to try to go public.

Highest number of IPOs in India since 1997

Month	No. of IPOs	Amount Raised (Rupees in billion)
January '97	28	1
September '25	25	133
February '97	20	8
February '07	18	45
July '00	17	3
September '00	17	3
September '10	15	41
December '24	15	254
April '00	15	2
September '23	14	119

NOTE : Only mainboard IPOs — SOURCE: Bloomberg

He also pointed to the increase of foreign investors participating in local stock offerings. Foreign institutional investors have bought almost Rs 42,900 crore ($4.8 billion) of stock via IPOs or placements this year. By contrast, they were net sellers equivalent to Rs 1.8 lakh crore in the broader stock market, according to the National Securities Depository.

That doesn't mean that there won't be any IPOs launching from next month. In fact, there are about 75 companies that have secured regulatory approval — including Tata Capital and LG Electronics India — but have yet to launch.

Women shooters sweep junior rifle prone

Anushka takes home gold; Anshika shoots a silver

NEW DELHI, PTI

India made a strong start in the ISSF Junior World Cup with the women making a clean sweep of the podium spots in 50m rifle prone, while the men bagged a silver and a bronze in the same event on day one of the competition here on Thursday.

Young Anushka Thokur carried on from where she had left off at the Asian Championships in Kazakhstan, where she had won the junior gold in 50m rifle 3 positions recently, taking the top podium spot at the Dr Karni Singh Ranges with a score of 621.6.

Another 18-year-old, Anshika bagged the silver totalling 619.2, while 20-year-old Aadhya Agrawal took the bronze with a score of 615.9 in the non-Olympic discipline.

Deependra Singh Shekhawat and Rohit Kanyan bagged their maiden international medals, clinching silver and bronze respectively in the men's 50m rifle prone. The gold in the event went to an Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN).

Deependra, who had competed in the men's 50m rifle 3-positions event at the Asian Championships in Kazakhstan recently, finished second with an aggregate of 617.9 over six rounds of 10 shots each. Rohit Kanyan took the bronze with a score of 616.3.

AIN athlete Kamil Nuriakhmetov took the gold tallying 618.9 points in the 11-shooter field.0

The other three Indians in the fray, Nitin Waghmare (615.6), bronze-medallist in Kazakhstan recently, Kushagra Singh (611.6) and Kunal Sharma (590.9) finished 5th, 8th and 11th respectively.

Competitions in Olympic disciplines will commence on Friday with the men's and women's 10m air pistol events lined up.

From left: Anshika (silver), Anushka Thokur (gold) and Aadhya Agrawal stand on the podium after India's clean sweep at the ISSF Junior World Cup in New Delhi on Thursday. X

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Arsenal, Man City coast along

Newcastle thrash Bradford; Spurs cruise to 3-0 win

LONDON, AFP

Eberechi Eze scored his first Arsenal goal as the Gunners beat Port Vale 2-0 to reach the League Cup fourth round, alongside Manchester City, Tottenham and Newcastle on Wednesday.

Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta was able to exhibit the strength in depth of his squad as Eze, Bukayo Saka and Gabriel Martinelli were among the nine changes from Sunday's 1-1 draw against Manchester City.

Eze has made an impressive start after his move from Crystal Palace last month that could be worth up to £68 million.

The England international slotted in from Myles Lewis-Skelly's flick to give Arsenal the perfect start after just eight minutes.

The visitors were unable to build on that advantage despite dominating the game.

Foden back

Phil Foden was City's key man with a goal and assist as they beat Huddersfield 2-0.

Foden has shown signs in recent weeks of rediscovering the form that made him the Premier League player of the year two seasons ago.

The England midfielder arrowed in a low drive to give the visitors the lead after 18 minutes.

Joelinton and William Osula both struck twice as Newcastle beat League One leaders Bradford 4-1.

Tottenham also got the job done inside the opening 20 minutes in a 3-0 victory over Doncaster.

Joao Palhinha's overhead kick opened the scoring before Jay McGrath turned into his own goal after just 17 minutes.

Spurs had to wait until stoppage time for their third when Brennan Johnson raced through to net his third goal of the season.

Premier League champions Liverpool will take on FA Cup winners Crystal Palace in the other standout fourth-round tie.

Chelsea travel to Wolves, while Fulham visit Wycombe.

League Two Grimsby, who shocked Manchester United in round two, will fancy their chances of reaching the quarter-finals after being handed a home tie against Premier League strugglers Brentford.

Results: Huddersfield: 0 lt to Manchester City: 2 (Foden 18th, Savinho 74th); Newcastle United: 4 (Joelinton 17th, 75th, Osula 19th, 87th) bt Bradford: 1 (Cook 79th); Tottenham: 3 (Palhinha 14th, McGrath 17th own goal, Johnson 90th+4) bt Doncaster: 0; Port Vale: 0 lt to Arsenal: 2 (Eze 8th, Trossard 86th).

Eberechi Eze celebrates after scoring Arsenal's first goal against Port Vale in the third round of the League Cup. REUTERS

Alvarez hat-trick seals Atletico win

MADRID, AFP

Julian Alvarez scored a hat-trick to snatch a thrilling 3-2 win for Atletico Madrid over Rayo Vallecano in La Liga on Wednesday.

The Rojiblancos fell behind in the 78th minute but Alvarez, who had opened the scoring, struck twice more in the final stages to claim three points for Diego Simeone's side.

The Argentina international helped Atletico secure only their second win from six league matches during a shaky start to the campaign. Atletico are ninth and trail league leaders Real Madrid by nine points ahead of Saturday's derby clash against Xabi Alonso's side.

Alvarez, who missed a penalty in Atletico's frustrating draw at Mallorca last weekend, opened the scoring at the Metropolitano stadium. The 25-year-old forward, who joined from Manchester City in 2024, volleyed home from Marcos Llorente's looping cross after 15 minutes to get the ball rolling.

Results: Atletico Madrid: 3 (Alvarez 15th, 80th, 88th) bt Rayo Vallecano: 2 (Chavarria 45+1st, Garcia 78th); Getafe: 1 (Arambarri 63rd) drew with Alaves: 1 (Guevara 71st); Real Sociedad: 1 (Oyarzabal 49th) bt Mallorca: 0.

Alcaraz survives injury scare to advance

TOKYO, AFP: World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz shrugged off an ankle injury to beat Argentina's Sebastian Baez 6-4, 6-2 on Thursday in a gritty start to his Japan Open campaign.

US Open champion Alcaraz crumpled to the ground chasing a shot in the fifth game of the opening set in Tokyo and sat on the court grimacing for several minutes.

The Spaniard had his left ankle heavily strapped during a medical timeout before gingerly returning.

He soon began to move comfortably and broke world No. 41 Baez to take a 5-4 lead.

The match was delayed for a further half an hour as organisers closed the stadium roof with rain falling.

Alcaraz returned strongly and closed out the first set before breezing past Baez in the second.

Sinner wins

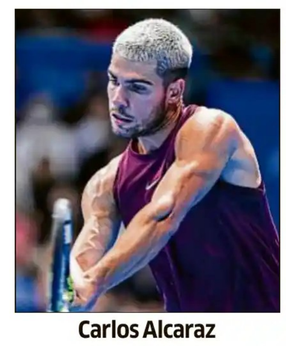
Jannik Sinner beat Croatia's Marin Cilic 6-2, 6-2 to cruise into round two in Beijing on his first showing since losing the US Open final, reports AFP from Beijing.

Next at the China Open the world No. 2 from Italy faces qualifier Terence Atmane of France.

The 36-year-old Cilic was looking to snap a winless run stretching back to the Wimbledon last 16.

The two were evenly matched in the first set until the 24-year-old Sinner broke for a 3-2 lead.

The Italian added the next two games without losing a point and closed the set with minimum fuss.



Carlos Alcaraz

Super Cup: BFC drawn in Group C; Mohun Bagan, EB placed together

NEW DELHI, PTI: Bengaluru FC have been drawn against Mohammedan Sporting, Punjab FC and Gokulam Kerala FC to form Group C, while the Kolkata Derby will light up the group stage of the Super Cup as arch-rivals Mohun Bagan and East Bengal were placed together on Thursday.

The traditional giants have been placed in Group A alongside Chennaiyin FC and Real Kashmir FC, setting the stage for a high-voltage clash, which is likely to be held at the Fatorda Stadium in Margao on October 31. Mohun Bagan are likely to play their three group matches on October 25th, 28 thand 31st with the derby scheduled on the final day

The 16 participating teams have been divided into four

Group B consists of FC Goa, Jamshedpur FC, NorthEast United FC and Inter Kashi, while Group D has Mumbai City FC, Kerala Blasters FC, Hyderabad FC and Rajasthan United FC.

The tournament will be staged in Goa, with the Fatorda Stadium hosting both the opening match and the final of the event.

Group A: Mohun Bagan, East Bengal, Chennaiyin FC, Real Kashmir FC.
Group B: FC Goa, Jamshedpur FC, NorthEast United FC, Inter Kashi.
Group C: Bengaluru FC, Mohammedan Sporting, Punjab FC, Gokulam Kerala FC.
Group D: Mumbai City FC, Kerala Blasters FC, Hyderabad FC, Rajasthan United FC.

The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd

Publishers of DECCAN HERALD, PRAJAVANI, SUDHA & MAYURA
No.7-12, Kumbalgodu Indl. Area, Mysore Road, Bangalore - 74

NEWSPRINT WASTE FOR SALE

Sealed Tenders are invited for the disposal of the following Newsprint wastes from our Press at Bangalore, Dharwad , Mangalore, Harihara, Mysore, Gulbarga and Hospet. For the period **October to December - 2025.**

Details	Location-wise quantity in MT per month						
	Bangalore	Dharwad	Mangalore	Harihara	Mysore	Gulbarga	Hospet
DH & PV Print waste & unsolds (Voucher & Office copies)	12	6	4.5	4	4	4.5	2
Mixed Print & Folded waste	3	1.5	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
DH, PV, Sudha & Mayura White cut Peel waste	4	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3
White Reel ends including core DH, PV, Sudha & Mayura	8	1.8	0.6	1	2	1	1
DH, PV, Sudha & Mayura Reel wrappers / Miscellaneous sweep / Bale pattie waste	6	2	0.9	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.9
Sudha & Mayura Print waste & unsolds - Magazine	1	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.05
Miscellaneous Tissue/Mixed White waste / Carton boxs	2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.2

For clarification, Contact the Procurement Head at **45557340/ Mobile No; 9900042650.** Sealed Quotes/Tenders/mail may be addressed to Procurement Head **babu.v@printersmysore.co.in, venu.tl@printersmysore.co.in** and sent to the above address within 7 days from the date of this advertisement.

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI

No : EE/PRED/KLB/KKRDB /TS2/TND/2025-26/ 3394 Date : 24/09/2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION-2ND CALL (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT TWO COVER SYSTEM)

1) Name of work: CONSTRUCTION OF TALUKA PANCHAYAT BUILDING AT CHITTAPUR TALUKA KALABURAGI DISTRICT INDENT NO.17445/2ND CALL, 2) Head of account: 4515-00-102-1-03-386, 3) Amount put to tender: RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT17445/CALL-2 Rs..5,35,22,513.45, 4) Class of Contractor: CLASS - I & ABOVE, 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents: 23-09-2025 TO 15-10-2025 UPTO 4.00 PM, 6) Tender Form Fee: AS PER KPPP NORMS, 7) E.M.D. Fee: INDENT NO.17445 Rs..8,03,000.00, 8) Receipt of completed tender documents: 23-09-2025 TO 15-10-2025 UPTO 4.00 PM, 9) Technical Bid Opening Date: 16-10-2025 AFTER 11.00 AM, 10) Financial Bid opening Date 20-10-2025 AFTER 11.00 AM, 11) For more details contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Opp: Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head office, Kusnoor Road, Rajapur Kalaburagi 12) Website Address: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/557/KSMC&A/2025-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer,
Shanthinagara Division, 9th Floor, P.U. Building,
M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560001.

No: EE/SN/TEND-09/2025-26 Date: 25-09-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Single Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer (Shanthinagara Division), BCCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Greater Bengaluru Authority / KPWD for the Construction of work detailed below. **(Standard Tender Document - KW-1)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Demolition of Unauthorised Construction of Building at Ward No. 167 (Old Ward No. 111) Josphine Rita Pinto Rep. by its GPA Holder Thiru Margadarshi Construction Pvt. Ltd., Rep. by Managing Director Mr. S. Narayana PID No. 76-122-4 Site No. 04, 4th Cross, Victoria Layout, Shanthalanagara, Bengaluru. **Approximated Amount of Work (in Rs.): 5,85,000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 14,625.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is **27-10-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 3)** Date of Opening of Tenders is **28-10-2025 at 4.30 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shanthinagara Division, BCCC.

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU-01

No: HCC No.36/2025 Date: 24.09.2025

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is called by the High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru for **"Procurement of 200 Nos. of Mono Auto Duplex Laser Printers"** for High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru, Benches at Dharwad and Kalaburagi, through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Centre for e-Governance, Bengaluru.

The last date to upload the tender is fixed as **09.10.2025 at 4:00 p.m.** For more details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/searchTender/live** website.

Sd/-
(N.G.Dinesh)
Registrar (Computers) and Tender Inviting Authority,
High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/2978/MAA/2025-26

K-RIDE
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
BENGALURU SUBURBAN RAIL PROJECT

Website: **www.kride.in** | Email ID: **gmprocurement@kride.in**

e-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.:Bi-RIDE/BSRP/C1C4/SP-SSP Modification/2025 Date:25-09-2025

"Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning for the Shifting/modification of 8 Nos of Switching stations along with SCADA which are infringing the alignment of Corridor-1 & Corridor-4 of BSRP with necessary modification in existing over head equipment/PSI arrangement if required". Last date for submission of bid is **27.10.2025 IST 15:00 Hrs,** for details visit **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app.**

Sd/- **GENERAL MANAGER /Procurement/KRIDE**

DIPR/CP/2988/Zen/2025-26

KridePrm Kride Bsrp kride_bsrp KRIDE,BSRP

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE

Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi P.O. Bengaluru-560 072.

TENDER NOTIFICATION

No: ISEC/Regr/Estate/2025-26 Date: September 25, 2025

Sealed Tenders are invited for Security Services in the ISEC Campus from the reputed Bengaluru based agencies/contractors having adequate experience in providing security services. Interested agencies may down load the format from website **www.isec.ac.in.** Duly filled tender along with EMD of Rs.32,000/- (Rupees Thirty Two Thousand only) by way of DD/Pay order of any scheduled Bank drawn in favour of **"Registrar, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru"**, should be submitted to The Registrar, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi PO, Bengaluru – 560 072. Last Date for submission: **October 10, 2025.** Tenders will be opened on **October 13, 2025 at 3.00 pm** in the Committee Room. Interested Tenderers may be present while opening the tenders.

Asst. Registrar (Estate)

ISEC-25620

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಘಟಕ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಆ&ಕು.ಕ.ಇ.ಇಂ
ವಿಭಾಗ, ಫೋರ್ಟ್ ರೋಡ್, ಧಾರವಾಡ–580008
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ : 0836 – 2955800
(E-Mail : eehfwedvndwd1@gmail.com)
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾನಿಅ/ಆಕುಕಇಇಂ/ವಿಭಾಗ–ಧಾ/ರಿಪೇರಿ/802/25–26
ದಿನಾಂಕ : 25.09.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (Through KPP Portal only)

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆ&ಕು.ಕ.ಇ.ಇಂ., ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿವಾರು ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾವಾರು ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಈ ವಿಭಾಗದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯ 1} 2210–01–110–1–21–200 ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ– 9 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ, ಗದಗ– 5 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ, ಹಾವೇರಿ– 1 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ– 3 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ – 3 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ–2 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ರಿಪೇರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು, 2} ಪಿ.ಎಮ್–ಅಭಿಮ್ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಹಾವೇರಿ – 10 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ– 7 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ–5 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು 3} ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶಿರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಹಾವೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ 2 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ [ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **20.00** ಲಕ್ಷದಿಂದ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **65.00** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು] ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿರುವಂತೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿವಾರು Double cover system, ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ದಿ : **26.09.2025** ರಿಂದ **03.10.2025**ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕುಮೆಂಟಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ, ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ದಿ: **08.10.2025** ರಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಆಸಕ್ತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ, ನಿಖರವಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು, ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಆ&ಕು.ಕ.ಇ. ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ಧಾ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/710/2025–26

Department of Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development

Office of the Executive Engineer M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore
Ph: 0821-2443347, website: eemidmysore@yahoo.co.in

No: 16/2025-26 Date: 23.09.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governer of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore invites tenders from registered and eligible contractors under "kppp Portal as per the terms and conditions prescribed in standard tender documents of KW2 and 3 for **4 works, Minimum tender amount Rs. 40.30 lakhs, Maxmium tender amount Rs. 80.67 Lakhs** and EMD amount Minimum **Rs. 0.80 lakhs** and Maximum amount **Rs. 1.62 lakhs.** The other tender details are given below.

Any information regarding this tender may be obtained from this office during office hours up to **Date: 04.10.2025, 5.30 PM.** Last date to upload the tenders with the prescribed E.M.D and requisite documents through website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Date: 06.10.2025, 5.30 PM.** The bids will be opened on **: 08.10.2025,11.00 AM.**

Note: All the rights are reserved for postponement or cancellation of all bids or any individual bids of this tender notification without assigning any reasons by the under signed. The terms and conditions for each work is published in the "Kppp" Tender Portal. Any corrigendum pertains to above tender will be published in KPP Portal only.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
MI & GWD Division, Mysore.

DIPR/MYS/1022/SA/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No:CEE/Tr(Op)Z/HSN/SEE (O)/AEE-2/FA-54&56/2025-26/7932-35 Date:24.09.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites bids through e-Procurement mode for the following work:

Name of the Work
Tender No:KPTCL/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT2800
"Combined package of works pertaining to Providing additional 1X10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformers at 110/11kV **Mc Gann** Hospital sub-station and 110/11kV **Gajanur** sub-station in Operation Division, KPTCL, Shivamogga **on PTK basis"**

The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on hyper link "tenders" on or after **26.09.2025.** Other details can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Elec.,)
Transmission(Operation) Zone, KPTCL,
3rd Floor, Santhepete, B.M.Road, Hassan-573201

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	(South-1)	BWSSB/EES-1/ TO/ AE/1812/2025-26 Date: 23.09.2025	Rs.7,62,740/- / Rs.19,100/-	09.10.2025 upto 4:00 PM	10.10.2025 after 4:00 PM
2		BWSSB/EES-1/ TO/ AE/1813/2025-26 Date: 23.09.2025	Rs.6,92,171/- / Rs.17,400/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-1)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the abovesigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/2985/SSC/2025-26

CRICKET

Jadeja named VC as Padikkal returns

India leave out Nair, include four spinners in the squad for West Indies series

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Veteran India spinner Ravindra Jadeja on Thursday was named the vice-captain for the two-match Test series against West Indies starting October 2, while Karnataka's Devdutt Padikkal returned at the expense of senior State-mate Karun Nair as the selectors announced a 15-member squad that bore no major surprises.

With Rishabh Pant still recovering from a foot fracture he suffered in the fourth Test against England in Manchester late July, a major decision the wise men had to make in a squad that almost selected itself was to name a deputy for Shubman Gill. The expectations were on opener KL Rahul, who has led India in two Tests, but the think-tank decided to bestow that honour on the 36-year-old Jadeja, easily the country's Most Valuable Player over the past decade.

"Rishabh is the vice-captain at the moment and a key player. But unfortunately, he hasn't quite recovered to make this particular Test series. We're hopeful that he'll be available for South Africa. And Jadeja has been one of your top performers," said chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar at a press conference in Dubai.

Nair's spot in the team was on the line following an ordinary series of England, where he managed to score just 205 runs in four Tests. Although the 33-year-old got off to promising starts in most of the innings and looked good during his stays, his inability to convert them into something substantially big ultimately cost him a place with the selectors, now looking into the future by picking the 25-year-old Padikkal and retaining the 23-year-old Sai Sudharsan.

Veteran all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja (left) was elevated to vice-captaincy while Devdutt Padikkal made a comeback to Test squad for the two-match series against West Indies. PTI/ AFP

Padikkal has played two Test matches, most recently during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, where he featured in the opening game at Perth. He probably would have been on the flight to England, where India drew 2-2, but a right hamstring injury suffered during the latter stages of the IPL ruled him out.

"We feel Padikkal offers a little bit more at this point, and I wish we could give everyone 15 or 20 Tests. Unfortunately, it doesn't work that way. Padikkal's been in the Test squad. Frankly, we expected a bit more from Karun in England. Devdutt was in the Test squad in Australia, played in Dharamsala against England, got a 50 there. He's shown some decent form within the race," said Agarkar, all but slamming the door on Nair.

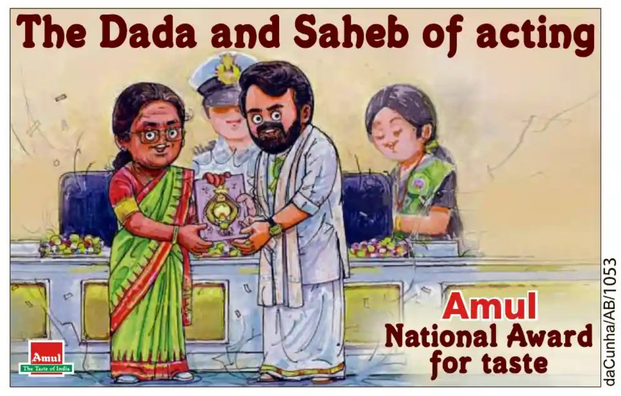
Jasprit Bumrah, who played three Tests in England and has featured in four games in the ongoing Asia Cup, was expected to be rested considering India host World Test Championship winners South Africa in November, but Agarkar said the pacer is fit and raring to go.

"This is a team for both the Test matches. So, he's available for both. We've had a fair break after England. He didn't play the fifth Test either. There has been a month or five weeks of break. This tournament (Asia Cup) has been fairly spaced out till this last week. He's ready and keen to play both Test matches," said Agarkar.

With Pant ruled out, Tamil Nadu's in-form stumper N Jagadeesan has been added as a back-up for Dhruv Jurel. Axar Patel also returns with the squad featuring a total of four spinners. A fit-again Nitish Kumar Reddy too has been picked.

INDIA SQUAD

- Shubman Gill (capt), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Ravindra Jadeja (vice-capt), Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Axar Patel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, N Jagadeesan (wk), Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Kuldeep Yadav.
- **Schedule: 1st Test:** Oct 2-6 (Ahmedabad); **2nd Test:** Oct 10-14 (New Delhi).



Bengaluru Urban emerge champions

MYSURU, DHNS

Bengaluru Urban, which excelled in both athletics and other group events while gathering 865 points, emerged overall champions of the 'CM Cup' State-level Dasara Games here on Thursday.

Mysuru division finished second with 597 points while Belagavi division completed the podium with 493 points.

Ashrith, Niol shine

In men's athletics, MS Ashrith, who won 800m and 1500m runs with a meet record, was declared the individual champion with 1006 points. The corresponding honour in the women's category went to Neol Ana Cornelio, who collected 991 points.

A total of 16 meeting records were set, including nine in the men's category and seven in the women's category.

Mysuru women won the top spot in athletics with a total of 95 points while Bengaluru Urban won the honours in the men's section with 77 points.

Last day's result (men's athletics): 10km: R Purushottam (Mysuru, 32:36.46) 1, TS Sandeep (Bengaluru) 2, Sangamesh Halli (Bagalkote) 3; **Triple jump**: Zafar Khan (Belagavi, 15m) 1, Yashas Gowda (Mandya) 2, JC Ramesh Nayak (Mysuru) 3; **4X400m relay**: Bengaluru Rural (3:16.84sec) 1, Bangalore City - 2, Belgaum - 3.
Women: Triple jump: H Aishwarya (Belagavi, 11m) 1, Smita Kakatkar (Belagavi) 2, Amulya (Shivamogga) 3; **4X400m relay**: Mysuru (4:00.45) 1, Bengaluru Rural - 2.

Dasara 10km run

The Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports will conduct the 'DYES Mysore Dasara 10km Run' in Mysuru on September 28.

Those above 15 years of age can participate. The entry is free and includes cash rewards.

Interested participants contact 0821-2564179, 8151993256, 7411763256.

Magadi CA win

Magadi Cricket Academy and Fahrenheits notched up convincing wins in the AVR-Arjuna Cup 2025 (Season 2) Under-14 cricket tournament in the ongoing Dasara Games.

Brief scores: Play Smart C: 115/7 in 30 overs (Pranjal 58, Shishir Aravind 3-15) lt to Magadi CA: 117/2 in 21.2 overs (Jagan TP 63, Sachit Galatagi 28).
Fahrenheits: 158/4 in 30 overs (Taksh Ganapathy 44, Surya 38, Akhieera Allan 34; Dhruva 2-24) bt Hill View Cricket: 61 all out in 21 overs (Samarth Srikanth 27, Farhan Shaikh 3- 4, Arvit 2-4, Rahul Jena 2-14).

Bengaluru Urban emerged overall champions in the CM Cup State-level Dasara Games in Mysuru. DH PHOTO/ ANUP RAGHT

Ishaan, Punya make hay

BENGALURU, DHNS

Top seeds Ishaan Pathak and Punya MN lived up to their no. 1 billing to clinch the under-13 boys' and girls' singles titles respectively at the Yonex-Sunrise Karnataka State U-11 & U-13 Ranking tournament at the Smashify Badminton Academy here on Thursday.

Winners at the Yonex-Sunrise Karnataka State U-11 & U-13 Badminton Ranking pose with their spoils.

LOCAL BADMINTON

Ishaan sailed past Rohan Karuturi in straight games 21-9, 21-14 in the singles' final before the opponents joined forces in the doubles title clash to defeat Daksh Dhotrad and partner Sanshray Sunil 21-16, 21-14.

Meanwhile, Punya overcame a late charge by Akshara Shrinidhi with a 21-9, 21-17 victory. She later partnered Johanna Ahilan to also top the podium in the doubles' category with a 22-20, 22-20 win over Dakshitha Mundla and Janyashree B.

Results (all finals, prefix denotes seedings): Under-13: Boys: Singles: 1-Ishaan Pathak bt Rohan Karuturi 21-9, 21-14. **Doubles:** 2-Ishaan Pathak/ Rohan Karuturi bt Daksh Dhotrad/ Sanshray Sunil 21-16, 21-14. **Girls: Singles:** 1-Punya MN bt Akshara Shrinidhi 21-9, 21-17. **Doubles:** 2-Johanna Ahilan/ Punya MN bt Dakshitha Mundla/ Janyashree B 22-20, 22-20. **Under-11: Boys: Singles:** 1-Agastya A bt Daksh Raghunand Iyengar 21-12, 21-9. **Doubles:** Agastya A/ Tharun Chandramohan bt 2-Gaurav VJ/ Ved Pydisetti 21-13, 21-4. **Girls: Singles:** 1-Shreeya A Rao bt Yashonidhi T 21-13, 21-15. **Doubles:** 3-JM Niharika Raj Niharika/ Shreeya A Rao bt Samruddhi Tandle/ Yashonidhi T 19-21, 21-14, 21-18.

Bharat BFC post first victory

BENGALURU, DHNS

Mohd Javed Salmani's brace helped Bharat Bengaluru FC register their first win with a 2-0 victory over Parikrama FC in the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Thursday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Salmani opened his account in the 14th minute to give his side a 1-0 lead. He then doubled his and BBFC's lead in the 66th minute to cap off a 2-0 win.

In the day's other games, Bangalore Dream United FC had to settle for a 2-2 draw after MEG & Centre FC's Hengou Lal Kipgen netted a 92nd minute equaliser.

Bharat Bengaluru FC's Mohd Javed Salmani (left) celebrates after scoring against Parikrma FC in their Super Division League Championship in Bengaluru on Thursday. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

On the other hand, Kavi Arasan's second half-brace went in vain as Ameen Khazeer's 76th minute goal rescued a point for MFAR Students Union FC against United Stars FC in their 2-2 draw to end a thrilling day of action.

Results: Bharat Bengaluru FC: 2 (Mohd Javed Salmani 14th, 66th) bt Parikrama FC: 0; Bangalore Dream United FC: 2 (K Lalrinfela 8th, 12th) drew with MEG & Centre FC: 2 (Niyas Nazar 27th, Hengou Lal Kipgen 90th+2); United Stars FC: 2 (Kavi Arasan 58th, 75th) drew with MFAR Students Union FC: 2 (Nivrutti Sunil Pavanoji 33rd, Ameen Khazeer 76th).

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Rock Bank wins feature

MYSURU RESULTS

Prasanna Kumar-trained Rock Bank, ridden by Neeraj Rawal, justified the favoritism to win the Rajakumari Leelavathi Devi Memorial Trophy, the feature event of the Myuru races on Thursday.

1. Shimsha Plate - 1600M: Eco System (Girish Byrappa) Pavan 1; Sling Shot (Suhas) 2; Striking Eyes (Jagadeesh) 3; Free To Win (Alex Rozario) 4; Not Run: Double Sxotch. Wb: 4-3/4, 3-1/4, 1-3/4L. T: 1:39.14. TB: Ranjeet Shinde. Fav: Shock And Awe

2. Sri Kanteerava Narasimharaja Sports Club Trophy (Div II) -1400M: Eclipse Pulse (Aziz Jaffer) Asirvatham 1; Totally Epic (Aleemuddin) 2; Sandal King (Mukesh Kumar) 3; Golden Stride (Ramu) 4; Wb: 6, 4-1/4, 1-3/4L. T: 1:23.85. TB: Azhar Ali. Fav: Eclipse Pulse.

3. Ranga Family Cup - 1800M: Winfield (Arun Alagappan) Antony Raj 1; Mystikos (Vinod Shinde) 2; Whirlwind (Neeraj Rawal) 3; Small Dreams (Shreyas Singh) 4; Wb: 2-3/4, 1/2, 6L, Hd. T: 1:50.31. TB: Arjun Mangalorkar. Fav: Winfield.

4. Rajakumari Leelavathi Devi Memorial Trophy - 1600M: Rock Bank (Kaliyaperumal) Neeraj Rawal 1; Touch Of Grey (RN Darshan) 2; Magneiic (Antony Raj) 3; Santorino (Dhanu Deora) 4; Wb: 3-1/4, 4/4, 18-1/L. T: 1:35.25. TB: Prasanna Kumar. Fav: Rock Bank.

5. Sri Kanteerava Narasimharaja Sport Club Trophy (Div I) - 1400M: Silicon Star (Dinesh Kumar) Ramu 1; Knotty Affair (N Darshan) 2; Selma (Anil Baandal) 3; Sd Good Sam (Dhanu Deora) 4; Not Run: Adelanto. Wb: 2-3/4, 6, 5-1/4L. T: 1:23.92. TB: Lokanath. Fav: Silicon Star.

6. Indradhanush Plate - 1100M: Felicita (Sunil Santosh) Pavan 1; Furious Fun (Robert) 2; Break Away (S Imran) 3; Jannat (Varun) 4; Wb: 1-1/4L, Nk. T: 1:06.19. TB: HR Moses. Fav: The Lady Emporio.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 39w; 15, 14, 12p; Fc: Rs1, 222; Q: Rs 362; Shp: Rs 55; Thp: Rs 28 ; Tri: Rs 1,087 & 399; Ex: Rs 30,626 & 13,125.

II race: Rs 17w; Rs 10, 12, 10p; Fc: Rs 73; Q: Rs 39; Shp: Rs 28; Thp: Rs 41; Tri: Rs 90 & 20; Ex: Rs 355 & 218.

III race: Rs 14w; 11, 23, 14p; Fc: Rs 84; Q: Rs 79; Shp: Rs 75 Thp: Rs 32; Tri: Rs 215 & 91; Ex: Rs 589 & 287.

IV race: Rs 12w; 10, 18p; Fc: Rs 37; Q: Rs 22; Shp: Rs 24; Thp: Rs 26; Tri: Rs 27 & 10;

V race: Rs 20w; 12, 11, 20p; Fc: Rs 31; Q: Rs 18; Shp: Rs 25; Thp: Rs 28; Tri: Rs 98 & 128; Ex: Rs 542 & 137.

VI race: Rs 52w; 17, 95, 85p; Fc: Rs 22,562; Q: Rs 4,194; Shp: Rs 307; Thp: Rs 159; Tri: Rs 54,942; Ex: Rs 63,585 (c/o).

Jackpot: Rs 842 (296). **Runner-up:** Rs 42 (2562). **I treble:** Rs 227 (21). **II Treble:** Rs 211 (55).

Miracle Star for main event

MYSURU SELECTIONS

Miracle Star, from the stables of Padmanabhan, to be ridden by Sandesh, will garner the maximum support in the Mysore 1000 Guineas, the first classic of the Mysore races run over a mile at the races on Friday.

The first race starts at 2:00 pm.

1. Valaroso Plate - 2000M: Unforgettable Star 1, Ceremonial 2, Supreme Success 3.

2. Son Of The Light Plate - 1400M: My Life My Rules 1, Warrior Woman 2, Bundelkhand Queen 3.

3. Jayanagara Plate - 1200M: Meghann 1, Empress Bella 2, Soreento Secret 3.

4. Maj Sardar.L.Mahadevaiah Memorial Trophy - 1200M: Ocean 1, Sherouk 2, Square Cut 3.

5. Mysore 1000 Guineas 2025 - 1600M: Miracle Star 1, Indian Brocade 2, Fourth Wing

6. MB Appaya Memorial Trophy - 1400M: Power Of Beauty 1, Mazal Tov 2, Kanya Rashi 3.

7. Haveri Plate - 1200M: Moonlight Queen 1, Court Jester 2, Grace 3.

Day's best: Unforgettable Star. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **I treble:** 2, 3 & 4. **II treble:** 5, 6 & 7.

IN BRIEF

Tanvi, Bornil to lead India

▸ Asian U-15 champion Tanvi Patri and former title winner Bornil Changmai will spearhead a 36-member Indian squad at the Badminton Asia U-17 & U-15 Championships, scheduled in Chengdu, China from October 21 to 26, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Both Tanvi and Changmai will step up to the U-17 category this time as India looks to extend its strong run in the continental age-group event.

India colts enter final

▸ The India U-17 men's national team brushed aside Nepal with a comprehensive 3-0 victory to book their place in the final of the SAFF U-17 Championship in Colombo on Thursday, reports PTI.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Asia Cup (Super 4s): India vs Sri Lanka **(8 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Ten 1**, **Sony LIV.**

GOLF

Ryder Cup: Day 1 **(3:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

SKY told to refrain from making political statements

ICC to summon Pakistan's Farhan, Rauf on Friday after BCCI complaint

DUBAI, PTI

Indian skipper Suryakumar Yadav was on Thursday told to refrain from making any comments that could be construed as political in nature by the ICC match referee Richie Richardson during an official hearing of the global body on a complaint filed by Pakistan Cricket Board.

The hearing happened as Indian skipper had pleaded not guilty for his post-match comments where he had stood by the Indian Army personnel involved in Operation Sindoor and showed solidarity with the victims of Pahalgam terror attack.

The hearing against Pakistan's Sahibzada Farhan and Haris Rauf, on a complaint filed by the BCCI, will be held on Friday as the two are playing in their Asia Cup match against Sri Lanka on Thursday.

It is understood that the PCB had filed the complaint within the stipulated seven-day period after the September 14 game between India and Pakistan in which Suryakumar had refused to shake hands and then dedicated the victory to the Indian armed forces for carrying out Operation Sindoor in May. He had also expressed solidarity with the victims of Pahalgam terror attack at both prize distribution and media conference.

BCCI has taken strong objections to the provocative gestures by Pakistan players Haris Rauf (left) and Sahibzada Farhan during the game against India on Sunday. AFP

"Surya attended the ICC hearing today. He was accompanied by BCCI's COO and Cricket Operations Manager. Richardson explained to him that he shouldn't be making any comments that could be seen as political in nature," a tournament source privy to the details told PTI on condition of anonymity.

"The sanction can't be ascertained. Since it falls under Level 1, it could either be a warning or a financial penalty of 15 percent deductions in match fees. Surya had plead not guilty and that's why hearing took place."

Earlier, India had filed an official complaint with the ICC against Pakistan cricketers Rauf and Farhan for their provocative gestures during the two sides' Asia Cup Super 4 game here last Sunday. It is reliably learnt that the BCCI filed the complaint against the duo on Wednesday and the ICC is in receipt of the e-mail.

During the September 21 match, Rauf had made gestures to depict the bringing down of a plane to mock India's military action after Indian supporters chanted "Kohli, Kohli" referring to the couple of match-winning sixes that the Indian legend hit off the pacer at MCG during a T20 World Cup game in 2022.

During the match, he hurled abuses at Indian openers Shubman Gill and Abhishek Sharma during his bowling spell, and the two youngsters responded with their bats. Sahibzada, during the same match, celebrated with a gun-firing gesture using his bat as a machine gun prop, something that has been widely criticised.

Both Rauf and Sahibzada will have to explain their gestures at the hearing and if the players' answers are not convincing, then they could face sanctions as per the code of conduct.

Adding fuel to the fire, Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday posted a slow-motion video of Cristiano Ronaldo on 'X', where the Portuguese legend is seen gesturing that an aircraft suddenly crashed, something that Rauf indicated on-field last Sunday.

Naqvi, apart from also being the Pakistan Cricket Board chairman, is the interior minister' of his country and is known to make provocative statements against India.

Shreyas Iyer

Shreyas to lead India A after red-ball cricket break

NEW DELHI, PTI: Shreyas Iyer was on Thursday appointed India A captain for a three-match one-day series against Australia A in Kanpur from September 30 but he has taken a six-month break from red-ball cricket to strengthen his dodgy back.

Besides Iyer, who recently informed the BCCI's chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar that he cannot take the rigours of red-ball cricket owing to a stiff back, the other key players in the India A one-day squad are Ravi Bishnoi, wicketkeeper-batter Prabhsimran Singh, big-hitting all-rounder Riyan Parag and Ayush Badoni among others.

Agarkar, while announcing the India squad for the two-Test home series against the West Indies in Dubai said that while no discussion had been held on who will lead the ODI side against Australia, the India A series will give Iyer another opportunity to showcase his leadership skills.

"Shreyas Iyer, we want him to play and play well. It's not that he hasn't led India A earlier. He has led his franchise well, and India A obviously helps us look at leaders. But we haven't discussed anything about the Australia ODIs (in October)," said Agarkar.

Iyer had conveyed his decision to step away from red-ball cricket to the BCCI.

India A squad for 1st match: Shreyas Iyer (c), Prabhsimran Singh (wk), Riyan Parag, Ayush Badoni, Suryansh Shedge, Vipraj Nigam, Nishant Sindhu, Gurjapneet Singh, Yudhvir Singh, Ravi Bishnoi, Abhishek Porel (wk), Priyansh Arya, Simarjeet Singh.

Squad for last two matches: Shreyas Iyer (c), Tilak Varma (vc), Abhishek Sharma, Prabhsimran Singh (wk), Riyan Parag, Ayush Badoni, Suryansh Shedge, Vipraj Nigam, Nishant Sindhu, Gurjapneet Singh, Yudhvir Singh, Ravi Bishnoi, Abhishek Porel (wk), Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh.

Rest of India squad (Irani Cup): Rajat Patidar (c), Abhimanyu Easwaran, Aryan Juyal (WK), Ruturaj Gaikwad (vc), Yash Dhull, Shaikh Rasheed, Ishan Kishan (wk), Tanush Kotian, Manav Suthar, Gurnoor Brar, Khaleel Ahmed, Akash Deep, Anshul Kamboj, Saransh Jain.

CRICKET ASIA CUP

Indians have a lot of 'catching' up to do

Butter-fingered fielders have grassed more offers than they have held on to

R KAUSHIK
DUBAI

Abhishek Sharma (top) and Kuldeep Yadav are just two of a handful of Indian fielders who have struggled to hold on to their catches in the Asia Cup. PTI/AFP

At first, it was acceptable, a cricketing error that can happen sometimes. Then, it became comical, segueing into the alarming and eventually the farcical. India's catching at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Wednesday was an unmitigated horror show, accomplished catchers competing with each other for top (?) honours in a bloopers package that made for embarrassing viewing.

Five dropped catches in 20 overs doesn't behove any international side, let alone one that has ruled the T20I landscape with unquestioned authority. What exacerbates the woes against Bangladesh is that it can't be written as a one-off, as a collective bad day. After all, India did shell four in the previous outing against Pakistan, also in the Super Fours stage of the Asia Cup. That they haven't been punished, yet, for their largesse should not mask the reality that as a catching unit, India have plenty of catching up to do, the terrible pun notwithstanding.

Just the other night, after Hardik Pandya pulled off a screamer to dismiss Oman's Aamir Kaleem to settle jangling nerves, fielding coach T Dilip waxed eloquent about his wards' preparation, their commitment, their wholehearted devotion to the seemingly simple but occasionally frustrating art of catching the five-and-a-half-ounce annoying orb. He was well within his rights. India had been on top of their catching game until that point, highlighted by a string of terrific grabs in the Group A fixture against Pakistan.

Except for the Oman showdown in Abu Dhabi, India's four other fixtures have been at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, which carries the notorious reputation of being one of the most difficult catching grounds in the world. That reputation isn't without basis; in the IPL in 2020 and 2021, in the T20 World Cup also in 2021, in the T20 Asia Cup the following year and the Champions Trophy this February-March, even the best fielders, the otherworldly Glenn Phillips excepted, have struggled for perception.

Unlike most other grounds worldwide with four, at best six, light towers, the DICS outfield is lit up by a series of low lights from the roofs that stud the circumference of the stadium, hence the sobriquet Ring of Fire. It places unique challenges on fielders, no matter how sure of hand they might be. It's easy to lose the ball against the lights and because teams train at the ICC Academy instead of the match venue itself, acclimatisation to the unprecedented demands isn't on the table. These aren't excuses, as the players themselves insist. They are contributory factors, but at the highest level, they can't and must not be allowed to bemuse and befuddle crack fielders to a potentially decisive degree.

What's surprising is how, and how quickly, India have gone from very good to very bad when the reverse is a more understandable transition. Having adjusted very quickly, they are now finding the going tough, which beggars explanation. Among the culprits are proven experts like Abhishek Sharma, Axar Patel, Shubman Gill, even Sanju Samson with the big gloves on. There have been suggestions that India have been casual and complacent, that they have taken too much for granted, but those suggestions should be firmly met with the (lack of) seriousness they deserve.

Varun Chakravarthy, of whose bowling four catches have been spilled, was on-point when he remarked, "The floodlights come in the eyeline sometimes, it is a little bit of a disturbance. But you can't give excuses at this level. As a team, we should be taking these catches. We have to get accustomed to it."

Dilip, it is learnt, was in a charitable mood after the Pakistan misadventure. Surely, after the Bangladesh meltdown, he would have read the riot act?

Pakistan set up final against India

DUBAI, PTI

Pakistan's bowling unit came to the party when it mattered the most as they defended a modest 135 with all its might against Bangladesh here on Thursday, winning the Super 4s match by 11 runs to set up a maiden Asia Cup title clash with arch-rivals India.

Taking into account the simmering off-field tension between India and Pakistan, no one would be more happier than the Asian Cricket Council and the tournament's official broadcasters, who would be laughing their way to the bank after Bangladesh made a hash of their chase.

They came close in the end though, managing 124 for nine in 20 overs.

The target could have been chased with a bit of common sense and some proper cricketing shots, but the Bangladeshi batters found every possible way to get dismissed after Shaheen Shah Afridi (3/17 in 4 overs) bowled a brilliant opening spell, taking two wickets in the Powerplay.

Once Haris Rauf (3/23 in 3 overs) got rid of the opposition danger-man Saif Hassan (18), who had warmed up with two sixes, none of the other batters showed the stomach for a fight. Rauf later polished off the tail with couple of express deliveries and kept his cool to bowl the final two deliveries on spot.

The saddest part was that none of the Bangladeshi batters had a clue as to how to play the spin troika of off-break bowler Saim Ayub (2/16 in 4 overs), slow left-arm orthodox Mohammed Nawaz (1/14 in 3 overs) and wrist spinner Abrar Ahmed (0/23 in 3 overs), who put the brakes on them during the middle overs.

Shamim Hossain (30 off 26 balls) played a horrible flat-batted reverse shot off a Afridi back-of-the-hand slower ball in his final over, and Bangladesh had no chance of scoring 39 in three overs.

Earlier, Bangladesh bowlers gave a fine account of themselves in humid conditions for the second day in a row as they restricted a fancied Pakistan batting line-up to 135 for eight in the winner-takes-it-all clash.

Senior Bangladesh bowlers Mustafizur Rahaman (1/33 in 4 overs), Taskin Ahmed (3/28 in 4 overs) and leg-spinner Rishad Hossain (2/18 in 4 overs) made full use of a tacky turner as none of the top-order Pakistan batters could make significant contributions.

Brief scores: Pakistan: 135/8 in 20 overs (Mohammad Haris 31, Mohammad Nawaz 25; Taskin Ahmed 3-28, Mahedi Hasan 2-28, Rishad Hossain 2-18) bt Bangladesh: 124/9 in 20 overs (Shamim Hossain 30; Shaheen Shah Afridi 3-17, Haris Rauf 3-33, Saim Ayub 2-16) by 11 runs.

PoM: Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi celebrates after dismissing Bangladesh's Parvez Hossain Emon during their Asia Cup Super4s game in Dubai on Thursday. AFP

India suffer a pasting in warm-up game

BENGALURU, DHNS: Skipper Nat Sciver-Brunt smashed a sparkling hundred as England hammered India by 153 runs in their warm-up game ahead of the ICC Women's World Cup here on Thursday.

Batting first, Sciver-Brunt slammed 120 in 104 balls and added 173 runs for the wicket with an aggressive Emma Lamb (84 off 60 balls), as England posted an imposing 340 for nine in 50 overs.

In reply, India could muster only 187 before being bowled out in 34 overs.

Jemimah Rodrigues top-scored for India with a 68-ball 66 and Uma Chetry made 45 off 50 balls at the top of the order.

The likes of Harleen Deol, Richa Ghosh, Deepti Sharma could not make significant contributions with the bat while the top-order troika of Pratika Rawal, Harmanpreet Kaur, and Smriti Mandhana did not bat. Linsey Smith and Sophie Ecclestone picked up two wickets apiece for England, while Kranti Goud was the most successful bowler for India with figures of 3/31.

India face New Zealand in their second and final warm-up fixture on Saturday before heading to Guwahati for the World Cup opener against Sri Lanka on Sept 30.

Brief scores: England: 340/9 in 50 overs (Amy Jones 39, Heather Knight 37, Nat Sciver-Brunt 120 n.o., Emma Lamb 84; Kranti Goud 3-31) bt India: 187 all out in 34 overs (Uma Chetry 45, Jemimah Rodrigues 66; Linsey Smith 2-35, Sophie Ecclestone 2-38) by 153 runs.

India A stay on course in chase of daunting 412

LUCKNOW, PTI: KL Rahul **(in pic)** made a solid 74 before retiring hurt as India remained on course to chase a formidable 412-run target set by Australia A on day three of the second four-day game here on Thursday.

Resuming the day at 16 for three, Australia A were all out for 185 in their second innings. It was a much improved bowling performance from India A who had allowed the opposition to score 420 in the first innings.

At stumps, India A were 169 for two, needing another 243 runs for victory. Before heading back to the dressing room, Rahul warmed up nicely for the series opener against the West Indies next week. His innings included nine fours.

N Jagadeesan, who was named in the India Test squad for the two Tests against the West Indies as a back-up wicket-keeper, made 36 at the top of the order alongside Rahul.

Sai Sudharsan (44) and Manav Suthar (1 batting) were in the middle when stumps were drawn. Off-spinner Todd Murphy took both the wickets to fall in the India A second innings. First to depart was Jagadeesan before Devdutt Padikkal, who made a comeback to the Test side, fell cheaply. Earlier in the day, Australia A were bowled out in 46.5 overs with Gurnoor Brar and Suthar sharing three wickets each.

Brief scores: Australia A: 420 & 185 all out in 46.5 overs (Nathan McSweeney 85, Josh Philippe 50; Mohammed Siraj 2-20, Gurnoor Brar 3-42, Manav Suthar 3-50, Yash Thakur 2-29) vs India A (O/n: 161/8): 194 all out in 52.5 overs (N Jagadeesan 38, Sai Sudharsan 75; Todd Murphy 2-48, Henry Thornton 4-36) & 169/2 in 41 overs (N Jagadeesan 36, KL Rahul 74 retd hurt, Sai Sudharsan 44 n.o.; Todd Murphy 2-49).

Wins masking India's mistakes

R KAUSHIK
DUBAI

'Sloppy' isn't a term normally associated with India's Twenty20 International side, but that's what they have been since the start of the Super Fours of the Asia Cup.

Convincing victories over Pakistan and Bangladesh, by six wickets and 41 runs respectively, can't mask the fact that India haven't been on top of their game in any of the three disciplines. It can't be great news for the chasing pack that despite being well below their best, India have stacked up a 5-0 record, but for a team that prides itself on setting the benchmark and then stretching it some more, it must be a chastening realisation that the scope for improvement is immense.

India were poor with the ball in the first ten overs against Pakistan, poor with the bat in the last 10 against Bangladesh and consistently abysmal (reflected by nine dropped catches) in the 39.3 overs in the field in those two outings. Their last Super Four fixture against eliminated Sri Lanka, at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Friday, will give them one last chance to eradicate the chinks ahead of the final 48 hours thereafter at the same venue.

Suryakumar Yadav, apart from his 47 against Pakistan in group stage, hasn't been amongst runs. AFP

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Gradually forming creaselines on Indian foreheads were wiped out on Wednesday with Jasprit Bumrah displaying his best for the first time in the tournament and Varun Chakravarthy finding a modicum of rhythm. Hitherto forced to plough a lone furrow, Kuldeep Yadav, the tournament's leading wicket-taker (12), will be delighted with his mates' timely return to form.

The batting has been about Abhishek Sharma, mainly, and Shubman Gill, to a lesser extent. The openers are the only two from the Indian camp with more than 100 runs, Abhishek's 248 coming at a bruising strike-rate of 206.66. Abhishek has smacked more sixes (17) than all his colleagues put together (16) and while that in itself isn't a major cause for concern, Suryakumar Yadav's lack of runs and fluency, which has mirrored the ordeals of the middle order, has become a talking point.

The skipper hasn't had a great time of it since succeeding Rohit Sharma in July last year; his troubles have spilled over to the Asia Cup where, an unbeaten 47 against Pakistan in the league stage apart, meaningful runs have remained elusive.

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